

**Price of a barrel of petroleum today:**  
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**INSIDE TODAY**  
**WORLD NEWS**  
**JUSTICE RESTORED**



In this March 31, 2008 file photo, Pakistan's deposed chief justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry arrives to address the High Court Bar Association in his hometown of Quetta in Pakistan. Pakistan agreed Monday, March 16, 2009, to reinstate Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry as chief justice, a move that could help defuse a political crisis that has sparked street battles and raised fears of instability in the country at a time of surging Islamist violence, a government official said.

See *INTERNATIONAL NEWS*

**SPORTS NEWS**



Phil Mickelson holds his trophy after winning the CA Championship golf tournament Sunday, March 15, 2009, in Doral, Fla.

See *Sports Today*

## Friends of the Handicapped conclude a tremendously successful fund raising season



PALM BEACH -- Friends of the Handicapped, a volunteer organization of tourists wintering on the island at Casa Del Mar, Aruba Beach Club, Costa Linda and Playa Linda, concluded its winter 2009 fund raising season with over Awg



100,000 in direct donations and in contributions from CEDE Aruba, Centro pa Desaroyo Social di Aruba—Center for Social Development of Aruba. To date, the extraordinary visitors have collected much

more than one million florins and have donated the funds to local associations and organizations, dedicated to the welfare of Aruba's mentally and physically handicapped.

*Continued on Next Page*

## Chef from Sweden gives thumbs up to Moby Dick's



PALM BEACH – On Friday Night, Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant had the pleasure to welcome Chef de Cuisine

Kenneth Akerlund of Gastis Jokkemokk in Sweden. Although they didn't realize that they had a famous chef in the house, Moby Dick's served up the most amazing Lobster Thermidor he'd ever had. Chef Akerlund said "Many thanks for the fantastic Lobster Thermidor. I have been all over the world and I did not know Moby Dick's is one of the best! I'll be back again next year!" Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant is located in the Paseo Herencia Mall on the corner with the most beautifully appointed underwater dining room you've ever seen. □

*Photo by Julia Renfro*

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# Friends of the Handicapped conclude a tremendously successful fund raising season



**Continued from Front Page**

Among recipients of generous checks Mi Por, an organization of mothers with handicapped infants, Foster Home Imeldahof, the Edmund Harms Hospice Foundation, the hearing-impaired Funari school & FEPO, Fundacion Respeta Mi which guards against child abuse, Ambiente Nobo, sister Philothea's home for the handicapped, Ambiente Feliz & AVA, catering to special-need kids, Centro Kibrahacha for the elderly, Bibito Pin,



a school for children with disabilities, Fundacion Cas Marie, dedicated to those suffering from dementia, Clown Doctors who visit the elderly and also kids in the hospital's children's ward, the Red Cross dedicated to disaster first response and management and Fundacion Pa Nos Muchanan whose name indicates care for children, Falpa, foundation Arubano pa lectura, Adopt an Addict, FAVI, helping the visually impaired, Thuiszorg Aruba, Sea-Epilepsie and Samba, a rehab center. Foundation President Art Stark called recipients up and asked them all to say a few words about their foundations.



It was a very moving and emotional evening, as representative of the not-for-profit foundations outlined the work they do on behalf of the needy also explaining how the funds will be put to good use, paying for transport, renovations, educational materials, kitchen equipment, wheel chairs and conferences, promoting understanding and acceptance of handicapped members of our society.

This year, Stark reports the fund



raising activities included a Mega Bingo at the Renaissance Convention Center, a Sweethearts' Valentine's Day Dinner & Dance at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, weekly arts and crafts fairs, Sunday mass donations, a Superbowl party and significant amounts pledged by the local community. Pictured here, the FOH board, at the fund distribution event, handing over much-needed checks to 22 not-for-profit organizations supporting Aruba's handicapped community. □



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# CPR and First Aid Training for Managers and Chefs Aruba Wine & Dine



ORANJESTAD - Aruba Wine & Dine organized a MedicFirst Aid trainings for the managers and chefs of their restaurants. This past Thursday, the office of Aruba Wine & Dine was used for these necessary and useful trainings.

Friday restaurant Tango Restaurant in the Arawak Gardens was the location. In total, about 30 people now know how to help people in emergency situations. They learned during the training to stay calm and with doing this helping people in an efficient way.

Besides the outstanding knowledge of the instructor and the serious lessons, the trainees had also a lot of fun because of the humoristic situations.

Whether you prefer hamburgers or foie gras, the beach or downtown, there's an ARUBA Aruba Wine & Dine member for you.



Choose from nine establishments offering something for everyone, from fine-dining excellence at Matilde Island Chic and Hadicurari, to family fun tapas at Salt & Pepper, or enjoy a charcoal grilled dinner with tango show at Tango Restaurant or fabulous fish from Fishes'n More. Relax on the beach at MooMba, or go all out starting your evening at Cafe The Plaza, stroll over to Mambo Jambo for downtown nightlife and finish your evening at Sopranos' live piano bar. □

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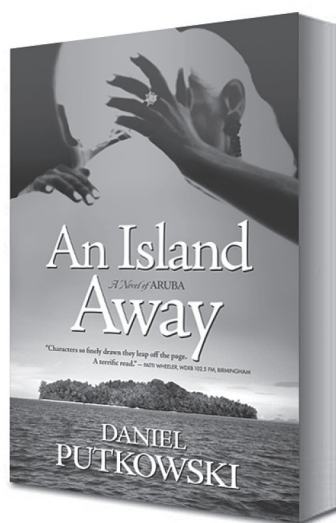


# Suikertuin mean Sugar Garden



Oranjestad – Friends of Gaston Verlaan and Willeke Volgers gathered in the garden of Wilhelminastraat 64, the former La Fondue Aruba to congratulate Gaston & Willeke on the day they took over the charming old Cunucu house in the heart of Oranjestad in order to transform it into the Suikertuin, the Sugar Garden, an intimate breakfast and lunch establishment. Gaston known as the owner & operator of

the Arubiana Inn and Willeke, of Delifrance fame, joined their creativity and their vast knowledge of food & beverage to deliver a cozy eatery designed to please those working in town. We wish them luck and we promise to come taste their mix & match sandwiches, soups, and salads, read their newspapers and magazines, after June 1st, anytime between the crack of dawn and sunset.□



## DISCOVER *the* BESTSELLING NOVEL ABOUT *Aruba*

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## Aruba's Dr Visser featured internationally

ORANJESTAD – Dr Richard Visser an Aruba-born distinguished medical professional has focused on the epidemic of childhood obesity in recent year, examining the issue from many different perspectives: as an academician, a clinical researcher, an activist and politician, an educator, a concerned citizen and a parent.

This week he has been featured on three health-related web sites in the USA: [naturallysavvy.com](http://naturallysavvy.com), [thehealthybelly.com](http://thehealthybelly.com) and [erewhonmarket.com](http://erewhonmarket.com).

On the two first websites he writes about Raising Healthy Children, and how to Boost Baby's Nutrition, while on the third Erewhon, Hollywood's most famous star studded all Natural and Green food & supplement provider, his name is listed among health practitioners participating in a big celebrity event, in Los Angeles.

Visser reports he will be promoting Extreme H Games TV, the his book coming out in January 2010 in addition to the Extreme H Games events in the Caribbean, and the island of Aruba as a vacation destination and a natural choice for West Coasters.

The Erewhon happening he explains will close down a street in Hollywood, and will have a record number of people attending including many celebrities.

The subjects Visser will be addressing include helping parents raise healthy and fit kids, in a talk titled: "Unleashing the super-hero within your child." He will also address various

Public Health questions mostly talking about how to stay well during an economic downturn and how to care for family members, in a crunch. Visser will outline what educators need to do in changing and updating school systems and he will elaborate on a brand new subject, food labeling and how to read new product labels coming on the market.

Visser's goal is to help parents weave through what's good, bad and ugly. And while TV commercials, he explains, make it hard to differentiate between healthy and less healthy, Visser intends to help people navigate food labeling and look at the new laws and law structures, which must be implemented in order to safeguard mothers and children, especially young ones, age zero to six.

Visser will also outline the government's role and how the private sector can help. "It is critical," he says, "we must reevaluate the ways and means of building a healthy, prosperous society." After graduating from St. Michael's University in Vermont with a degree in Science and Business Administration, Dr. Visser studied pre-med at the University of Colorado. But he felt the need to explore alternatives to the current medical model when it came to creating health and fitness. He entered Palmer College of Chiropractic in Santa Clara, California, and earned his Doctor of Chiropractic degree. Dr. Visser's groundbreaking clinical study on childhood obesity on Aruba earned him his

PhD. in Public Health from the University of Medicine, Havana, Cuba.

For fifteen years Dr. Visser has addressed the problem of obesity and, more specifically, the pandemic of childhood obesity, on many fronts, including work with the International Olympic Committee. Through the years Dr. Visser's work has made a vital contribution to a greater understanding of the biological, sociological and psychological factors surrounding childhood obesity. This understanding has led to research with VU Medical Center The Netherlands and implementation projects through Latin America and the Caribbean. His work has been recognized by EPHA (European Public Health Alliance) in Brussels, Belgium and the Los Angeles City Council.

He speaks nationally and internationally to elementary schools, concerned parent groups and NGO's, his Extreme H Games one day intensive with kids is in its third year.

Through his foundation more than a thousand kids a year get to have this unique educational experience. Currently he is hosting a TV show teaching children Nutrition and Health in Los Angeles and writes for various publications.

To reach Dr. Visser, email him at [DrVisser.com](mailto:DrVisser.com).

Pictured here Dr Visser's interview on Bahrain TV during his recent visit to the Bahrain International Natural Health Products & Green Expo 2009. □



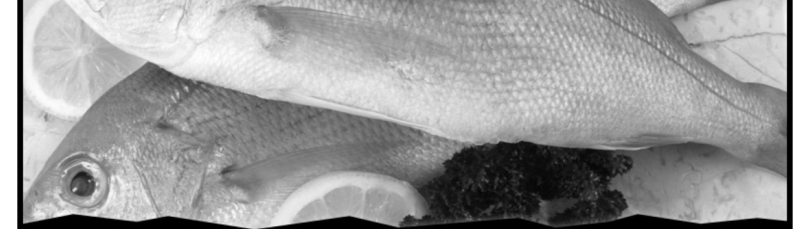
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# CATA delegates savor the flavors of the L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House



and Jacqueline Mora, the Renaissance representative for Latin America, co-hosted an elegant dinner party at L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House in honor of CATA delegates. The popular annual conference known as CATA, "Conferencia annual di Turismo de Aruba," attracts a great number of hospitality professionals from South America. The conference facilitates networking and business opportunities delivering business results. Paola Ochoa escorted the dignitaries on behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority



Oranjestad — Events Manager Ariana Santiago

while Francois Maduro food service and made sure oversaw the impeccable the guests from Argentina,

Venezuela and Brazil had a wonderful time. ☐

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# The French Steakhouse Gets a Seasonal Refresh



Eagle Beach – Locals and visitors have been looking forward to the seasonal menu tweak and recharge of the French Steakhouse, under the expert direction of executive chef George Hoek. The good news reached us just recently. The master has finally revealed his grand retouch, resulting in a packed dining-room every night of the week.

Among appetizers Chef George now lists his popular classics, Escargot a la Pernod and Prosciutto Ham & Melon

next to his novel selections, Authentic Aruba Keeshi Yena and Tropical Crab Cakes with pineapple and mango salsa.

The classic menu of the French Steak House received a pepped-up twist, also evident in the salad section featuring a Honey Glazed Salmon Salad and a Hearts of Palm with Roasted Pepper salad.

The menu now boasts more seafood, from fresh fish to the totally sinful and amazingly decadent Caribbean Stuffed Shrimp with Crabmeat and

Bacon, which became an instant hit. The tequila and sweet chili glaze, lends the Jumbo shrimp a pure taste of heaven! The famous South American Churrasco steak, a signature preparation, now shares the limelight with juicy USDA beef specialties such as NY Sirloin and Filet Mignon. And Chef George definitely took the boring out of chicken with his Jerk Curried Skewers and Lemon Herb Broilers.

Open seven days a week from 5:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. the French Steakhouse is blessed with the nicest staff and a delightfully renovated dining room with sparkling China, crisp linen, an interesting bread basket, colossal desserts and live jazz on piano with Eddy Samson.

Hungry patrons will appreciate the Ambassador's 5-course menu featuring the run of the menu highlights for just \$34.95 per person, at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, on Eagle beach. □



## Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar perfects beach cuisine



Eagle Beach – Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa recently unveiled its new lunch & cocktail menu, conceived and presented by executive chef George Hoek.

A few months ago, when Chef Hoek joined the Manchebo's culinary team, he promised to introduce a "Sun Splashed" menu to the resort's Café & Beach Bar, thus elevating beach cuisine to an ultimate high.

True to his promise, the chef delivered a contemporary menu, listing many favorite dishes from around the world, deriving inspiration off US, Mexican, Thai, Jamaican, Cuban, Greek and Mediterranean menus, all served with a tropical, Caribbean flair.

For starters to Sun-Sational Salads, to open

face sandwiches, Cuban pressed jawbreakers and wraps, Chef Hoek went out of his way to bring novelty to mid-day platters, while not forgetting the classics, which also make an appearance on his menu starring oversize Beef Burgers, Philly Cheese Steak Sandwiches and Hot Dogs.

The Pega Pega tropical & frozen cocktail list, with fresh fruit or ice cream smoothies, daiquiris, coladas and margaritas, leaves nothing out, including Yellow Birds, Sex on the Beach and Mudslides, making a lunch-time brain-freeze, extremely easy to get!

The Pega Pega, one of Aruba oldest beach bars is open on fabulous Eagle Beach, with unrivaled views, caring, gracious service, and relaxed atmosphere, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The bar opens at 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. □



## Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano delivers authentic Italian flavors



Eagle Beach -- Italian food lovers needn't walk far. Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano located within walking distance of all low-rise resorts, at the charming Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, delivers Mamma Mia cuisine. The Manchebo's Executive Chef George Hoek concocted an irresistible menu of Italian classic specialties with a contemporary feel, served al fresco, on the garden terrace or around the tropical pool.

From Anti Pasti to Insalata, Zuppa to Pesce, the menu welcomes diners with familiar recipes, which distinctly demonstrates the talents of Executive Chef George Hoek, a master of flavorful sauces, delicious combinations and delightful presentations

At the heart of the menu, the Pasta section, delivers a nice variety to be shared by two or enjoyed unabashedly solo – go ahead, you only live once.

Pizza appears on Giorgio's menu for

those craving thin crusts and ample toppings, with a selection of classic pies made to order and served with a genuine Italian accent. Angelo, the Maitre D is Italian, naturally.

Giorgio's Piatti Principali feature a hit-parade of dishes, which make it very difficult to choose.

Giorgio's Osso Bucco will have you moaning with great satisfaction as you heap the braised veal shanks flavored with herbs and a red wine reduction, escorted by potato gnocchi, onto your fork, getting lost in the symphonic, robust flavors.

Chef George says General Manager Edgar Roelofs, is an incredibly valuable addition to our team as his food is divine, and his desserts deserve a special article on their own!

To check things out yourselves, call Giorgio's at the Manchebo Beach Resort. It is open for dinner nightly. □







**Free Ticket for Morgan's Island Aqua Park With Dinner**

## NOBUSHI: The best sushi is at Paseo Herencia



Nobushi brings to Aruba the finest sushi. At Nobushi, every single piece gets the love and attention it needs from the professional Sushi chefs. Nobushi Sushi Bar & Asian Cuisine features a variety of sashimi, sushi rolls, chicken, fish and meat entrees that will enlighten your senses.

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**At the Paseo Herencia Mall across from the Holiday Inn**



Looking for the legendary seafood entrees?

## The freshest seafood is at Moby Dick's

PASEO HERENCIA – Moby Dick's has one mission; to take you to the depths of the blue ocean to taste some of the most exquisite dishes to come from the deep. What a truly beautiful restaurant this is, and what a unique interior to match. The

inside is studded with artwork, amazing glass carvings, and both floors are dominated by gigantic fountains, with water running from ceiling to floor along multicoloured lit fibre optic cables. The stairway is lined by an impressive painting which

runs along the complete wall. The menu promises to be a true seafood lovers dream. Lobsters, fresh fish fillets, shrimps, Moby Dick's has everything on the menu. There is of course a land lubbers section for those who are so disposed. The wine list is impressive to say the least, and the cocktails are definitely worth a taste.

Moby Dick's is open for lunch as well. The chef has made a well rounded, extensive menu for you to choose from. You will find what you want, whatever your craving may be at that time. The staff is amongst the friendliest on the island, ever so attentive to your every whim. So long story short, for unbelievable seafood in unique surroundings, go to Moby Dick's. You'll have a whale of a time!



**Don't leave Aruba without trying the BLOODY OYSTER!** It is the ultimate delicacy known by deep sea connoisseurs. This is heavenly combination of Tomato Juice, Cold Vodka, Oysters, Shrimp, Tabasco, Lime and Pepper.

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## Casa Tua's highlight of the day: Ossobuco that melts in your mouth

PALM BEACH - Neatly tucked away on Palm Beach in the Arawak Gardens, Casa Tua presents a fresh approach to dining in Aruba. The outdoor atmosphere is cool and relaxed; the name says it all "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian.

Today's highlight of the menu is the Ossobuco di Vitello con Tagliatelle which is a mouth watering Veal Ossobuco (shank) stewed with red wine, parsley, Rosemary, oregano, onions and lemon juice served with the most unique Tagliatelle. After the first bite, patrons are seen pinching themselves to see if they are dreaming or actually taking a true bite of seventh heaven.



**Casa Tua Palm Beach**

*open from 5pm to 11pm.*

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Set sail and join Red Sail Sports Half Day Luncheon Snorkel Sail or the romantic Sunset Sail. Red Sail Sports also offers a Dinner Sail which combines a sail along Aruba's scenic coastline and a spectacular view of the sunset with a tantalizing buffet catered by award-winning chefs. If you want to discover Aruba's underwater world, be sure to get in touch with Red Sail Sports. Learn to dive in one



day with the Discover Scuba Dive Course, get PADI certified or join us on our daily one and two tank dives. Red Sail Sports is Aruba's lead-ing dive and watersports operator. Activity desks are located at the Hyatt Regency, Marriott Resorts and on Renaissance Island.

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**Sundown Special**, receive 10% off your meal when seated by 6 p.m.

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## Hotel Kura Hulanda Spa & Casino Announces New Resident Manager

CURACAO – President and Director of Project Kura Hulanda, Peter Heinen announced the promotion of Aruban hospitality executive Shirley Geerman to Resident Manager of Hotel Kura Hulanda.

“Shirley has proven herself as a dynamic member of our resort as the Director of Sales for the past four years and we are confident she will continue to thrive in her new role as Resident Manager,” stated Heinen.

Shirley Geerman has 24 years of experience in the travel and hospitality industry. In addition to her most recent experience at Kura Hulanda

she has spent time in various markets including Latin America, Europe and North America. She has extensive experience in the meetings and incentive market and is well known by travel partners. Geerman, a native Aruba, can count the Aruba Marriott, the former Wyndham Aruba Beach Resort and the Renaissance Aruba Hotel & Casino among her past employers.

Located in Willemstad, Curaçao, Hotel Kura Hulanda Spa & Casino is an 80-room luxury boutique resort featuring meticulously restored 18th and 19th century Dutch

Colonial Caribbean buildings

spread over several glorious courtyards, multiple pools, award-winning restaurants, a brand new spa and fitness center.

Just 45 minutes away in the tranquil and idyllic setting of Curacao’s west end, Hotel Kura Hulanda’s sister property Lodge Kura Hulanda and Beach Club offers a luxurious ambiance coupled with a relaxing beachfront retreat and the seclusion of a unique island hideaway. Featuring a beautiful, white sand beach and a spectacular swimming pool, Lodge Kura Hulanda and Beach Club offers guests the chance to experience world class diving, hiking, cycling and adventure within feet of the resort. For more info about Kura Hulanda, please visit [www.kurahulanda.com](http://www.kurahulanda.com).



*Salsa-merenque Irish Party...*

## Mambo Jambo to celebrate St. Patrick's Day



ORANJESTAD - This year we will be celebrating St Patrick’s Day again, this time at Mambo Jambo downtown on March 17th (Tuesday), so we will be having a salsa-merenque Irish Party... that means fun.

Live bands, but also dj’s on the balcony for those who just

want to lounge and relax.

Since Digicel and Budweiser are the main sponsors, we will be raffling Digicel cell phones and Budweiser Beach Chairs, dinners for 2 from the wine and dine restaurants and a lot more.

At the entrance there will be promotional girls handing out St Patty’s tatoos, glow bracelets, hats, gum, and lucky charm cookies with gifts, so be in time.

The beer will be green this night, and we will be having green Patty shots the whole night for everybody!

Tickets are available at Mambo Jambo for 10\$, reserve your ticket in time, tickets like these go fast! □

## Buccaneer Restaurant

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## Boy finds turtle with something extra on the golf course in Bonaire



Woody Marshall/The Telegraph Greyson Cory of Centerville holds the two-headed six-legged turtle he found while golfing with his brother Justice.

By Amy Leigh Womack

CENTERVILLE — The Cory family has become accustomed to rescuing animals in need, taking in two dogs and four cats while giving many more away.

Their newest pet is Hanchewie, a rare two-headed, six-legged turtle that 9-year-old Greyson Cory found Thursday on the fairway at Bonaire's Waterford golf course.

He was playing his first ever game of golf, along with his 10-year-old brother, Justice, and their great-grandfather.

"I just looked down and I saw it," Greyson said.

"He was just lying on the ground."

The boys and their great-grandfather filled an empty bag, used to carry golf balls, with pond water and put the

turtle inside.

Initially, Greyson said his friends didn't believe he had a two-headed turtle as a pet.

"But we've had so many neighborhood boys who have come over," said the boys' mother, Diana Cory.

At home, the family named the turtle after two "Star Wars" characters.

The left head is Han, as in Han Solo. The right head is Chewie, as in Chewbacca, the Wookiee.

Hanchewie is a little bigger than a silver dollar. Each of his two heads face in an opposite direction and is paired with two legs. From the rear, the turtle looks normal with two back legs and a tiny tail.

Sometimes Hanchewie has trouble swimming, with one head trying to go in

one direction while the other paddles feverishly the opposite way.

John Jensen, a senior wildlife biologist at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, said he has looked at a photo of the turtle and it looks like a yellow-bellied slider hatchling. It's a type of turtle that people often see on logs basking in the sun.

"It's probably the most common fresh water turtle in the state," Jensen said. "They're cold-blooded animals and they need the sun's heat to warm up."

Jensen said Hanchewie is only the second two-headed turtle he's seen in his 13-year career in Georgia.

"It's pretty rare," he said.

He said it's likely the turtle was hatched underground in the fall and emerged on the surface after this week's warm weather.

Jensen said it's possible the turtle could survive for a year if it's taken care of, but the turtle's growth likely will be stunted because of its abnormalities.

After a day as turtle owners, the Corys say they still aren't quite sure how much the two heads of the "conjoined turtle" share.

It still hasn't eaten.

"I wonder how it goes to the bathroom," Greyson said, holding Hanchewie in the kitchen. An old plastic toy bin perched on the counter serves as the turtle's aquarium.

The boys' father, Jon Cory, said the makeshift aquarium is filled with pond water. A lamp shines light and warmth on rocks in the bin to keep the turtle warm.

When Hanchewie does decide to eat, the Corys have "turtle chow" from the pet store at the ready.

To contact writer Amy Leigh Womack, call 744-4398. □

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*Will meet with importers, freight, cargo companies*

# Chamber to assess why food prices are so high

PHILIPSBURG--The factors driving up the cost of food items and the reasons for sustained high prices will be the agenda when the St. Maarten Chamber of Commerce and Industry meets with wholesalers and freight and cargo companies.

Chamber President Glen Carty told reporters on Thursday that the issue of high cost of basic food items had been raised during last week's Economic Summit that brought together representatives of the various sectors of the economy to discuss measures "to mitigate the negative effects of the global financial crisis."

He said the intention of the chamber was not to dictate to businesses that they should slash their prices, but rather to assess the reasons for the high prices and to mull possible measures to lower the cost of living and thereby enhance workers' buying power.

Carty said wholesalers, freight and cargo company operators would be brought together to give the chamber a clear picture as to why the prices of food items are high in St. Maarten. He said comparisons would be made with Curaçao, for example, where importers have to pay import duties, as well as with neighbouring islands.

"Maybe there is a reason for it (high prices) and if there is a reason we would like to know," he said. "Because we are going to look at the price of, for instance, freight going to Curaçao from Miami and the price of electricity in Curaçao, and examine why certain items are twice as expensive here in St. Maarten."

"We will be open-minded. If, hypothetically speaking, we notice that the price of doing business from a food point of view is the same as in Curaçao, our question will then be: why the price difference? Is it because the volume is not the same?"

He said the talks, which would be held soon, would be in keeping with the points raised in the Economic Summit and in response to the constant lobbying efforts of trade

unionists such as Willy Haize, who is an advocate of poverty alleviation among the working class.

He said the discussions would be just the beginning of a series of talks on which the Chamber intends to embark in its bid to reduce the cost of living in St. Maarten. Discussions are also likely to be held with banks to determine what can be done to

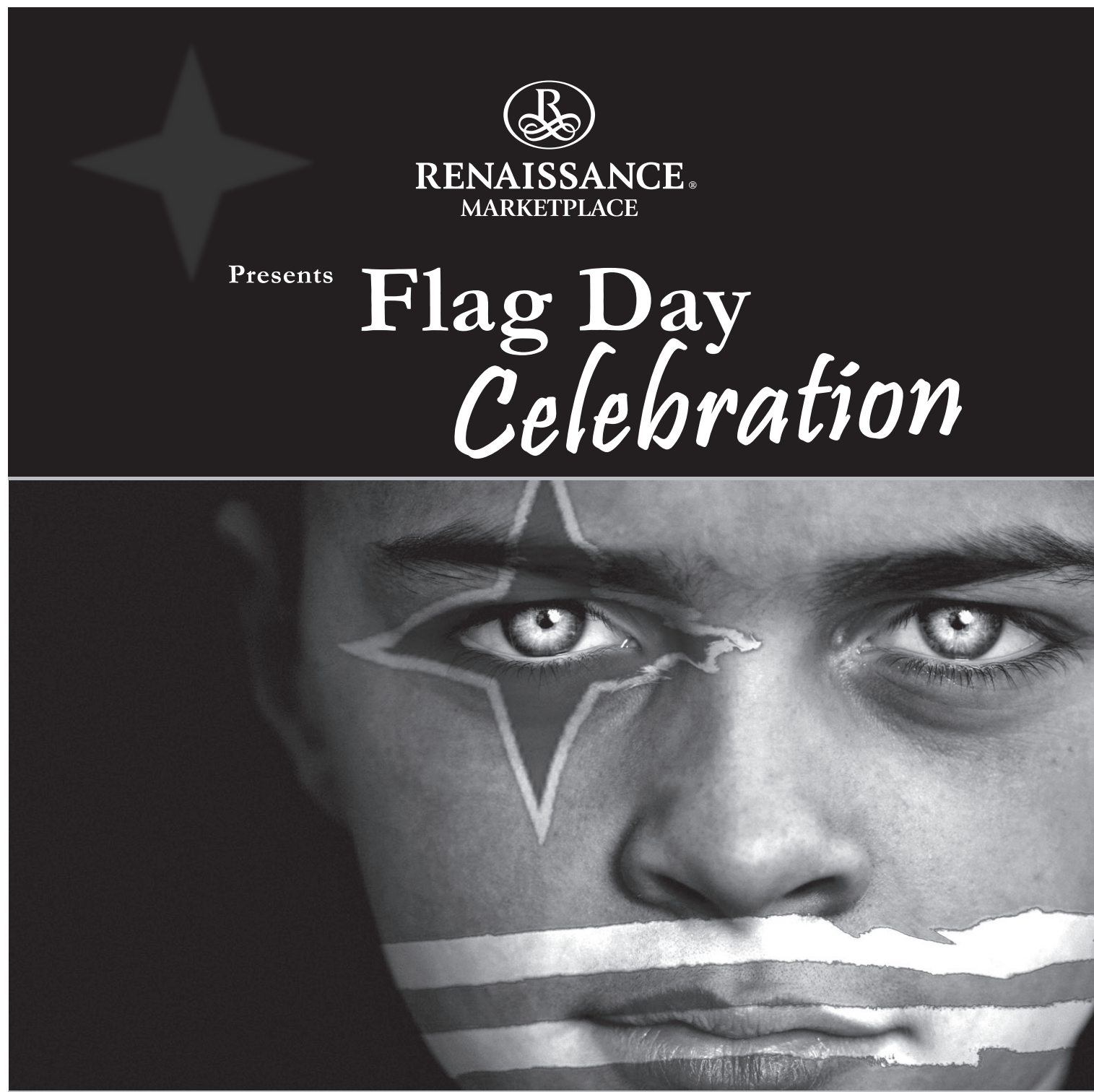
lower the cost of living.


"In my opening remarks at the summit, I had said we are all in this together and we have to work together to get through this situation. ... We are not there to tell them that they will have to drop their prices. We are just trying to figure out in the interest of our other partners (such as) unions why it is that the food prices

here are so expensive," the Chamber President explained. He said that as the Economic Summit Task Force was being put together, the chamber would continue to look at issues brought forward during that forum and do some legwork and lobbying for answers and solutions.

He said the Task Force should be in place by today, Friday,

and its members would have less than 30 days to come up with a plan of action for the points coming out of the summit. More than two dozen "short-term action points" for improving and strengthening St. Maarten's economy in the face of the worsening global financial and economic crisis were proposed at the economic summit. □



  
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# A musical paradise

By **HEATHER WYSOCKI**  
ST. MAARTEN, NETHERLANDS ANTILLES — Clad in board shorts and sporting dreadlocks and Ray-Bans, the members of Cape band Roots Down Below stare at their audience, a ragtag mix of families and bikinied coeds dancing on soft, white sand. Sailboats drift by, the sun shifts overhead, and sandy feet mingle, inspired by the band's bass-and-drum-heavy sound. It's a beautiful day in

this beachy paradise, and Roots Down Below seems to know it. For most of the Cape's bands, playing just inches away from the surf isn't new. But Roots Down Below isn't playing on any beach you're thinking of. To stave off a winter of periodic gigs and sparse weekday crowds, the North Harwich-based band travels to a Caribbean island for a mini-tour each year, trading Blue Moons and Cape Coddies for pina colodas and

St. Maartinians. Though still in its early days, this year's trip to St. Maarten is proving the perfect antidote to what could have been a dreary winter. "To me, it's been amazing," says Dan Allen, the group's lead singer. "It's such a rare thing to be able to follow our dreams (here)." Full-time musicians, Allen and bassist Aaron Small, guitarist Brandon Eardley and drummer George Bous chose the St. Maarten surf over the Cape



Cape-based band Roots Down Below — from left, Brandon Eardley, George Bous and Dan Allen — performs at the Heineken Regatta on St. Maarten.

Cod snow after a successful 2008 winter tour to St. John and St. Thomas. Bous visited the tiny St. Maarten in January

and convinced the band it was a perfect place to settle in until the Cape starts hopping in the summer.

Being on the island, says Allen, "is taking my energy and amplifying it. ... It's like being on an adventure."

Roots Down Below's sound, a mix of college keg-party standards such as Sublime and O.A.R. and the classic sounds of reggae greats Bob Marley and Peter Tosh, is a perfect fit for both seaside locales, whether on Nantucket Sound or the Caribbean Sea.

And with two albums, opening gigs with some of reggae's legends and six-plus years of playing together under their belts, the men of Roots Down Below believe they're prepared to perform for a nation in the same part of the world as reggae's mecca of Jamaica.

On Dutch St. Maarten — and St. Martin, the French half of the one-square-mile island — the Caribbean-created genre of music blasts from car stereos and restaurant sound systems, providing a never-ending backbeat to daily island life. Turn on the radio, and nearly all stations are playing the beats; there's a good bet that a two-week vacation will have you singing "Buffalo Soldier" for at least that long after you return home.

Despite a major booking snafu, discovered when it first arrived March 2, that left the band without a gig for a few days, Roots Down Below is looking forward to spending time closer to the music its members love. Bookings have increased, too, Small says, with three weekly gigs already arranged.

Ideally, says Allen, the band will continue its Caribbean tour through mid-April. "We'll be back at the time when the lilacs are blooming."

Back home in May, Roots Down Below's New England performance schedule includes nights at Harry's Blues Bar in Hyannis, Improper Bostonian in Dennisport and Rick's Outer Bar in Eastham. □



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# “Aruhiba” Aruba’s homemade cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest

export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called ‘Aruhiba’. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of “Aruhiba” cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi’s dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and



process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo ‘Aruhiba’ and ‘Made in Aruba’. Petrochi considers ‘Aruhiba’ a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

The company sells international cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and get 1 free for \$35.00. Located at the Historic Dutch



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*At the Crystal Theater*

## “Havana Dance,” is the hottest Cuban show on the island



ORANJESTAD - The elegant Crystal Theater sparkles with all the excitement of Las Vegas as the magnificent “Havana Dance” explodes on stage with a thrilling mix of Latin & Cuban music, colorful costumes and high energy, contemporary Cuban



dance.

“Havana Dance” is the biggest stage production in the Caribbean, featuring Cuban dancers and entertainers directly from Havana. The show delivers a purely Cuban spectacle, with a cast of 12 female ballerinas, 4 male dancers, 2 singers and 3 acrobats, performing a fresh program accompanied by live Cuban music performed on stage by a genuine Cuban orchestra, consisting of 5 professional Cuban musicians. This live dance AND live music combination as seen in our pictures, is ‘first of its kind’ on the island.

While the greater part of the “Havana Dance” review enjoys predominantly Cuban flavor, the show is graced with a truly unique Caribbean choreography, and many tropical touches. “Havana Dance” unfolds on a two-tiered stage, with entrances and exits to and off the arena at different heights, which presents a



new visual concept. The custom-designed costumes are sensual, daring, colorful, and luxurious and set “Havana Dance” apart from any other cabaret.

Producer Steve Hudson who enjoyed an unprecedentedly-successful seven-year run with his previous “Let’s Go Latin” review, conceived and created an exciting and much-evolved new must-see spectacle.

Tickets for “Havana Dance” are US\$ 49.- Children under 12 pay US\$25.-

Tickets are available at the theater box office, Renaissance Aruba Resort, and can also be purchased

at the concierge’s desk at the Renaissance Aruba Resort. Other ticket vendors include the De Palm Tours and Pelican Adventure Activity Centers at the resorts. A special dinner & show package is also available in conjunction with the L.G. Smith’s Steak & Chop House for US\$89.- per person. For additional information and reservations call the Crystal Theatre at Tel.: 583 6000, ext. 6115, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. After 5 p.m., call tel.: 583 6000 ext. 6357. Don’t miss an opportunity to be greatly entertained by the sizzle of “Havana Dance.” □



Enjoy the Fresh Catch of the Day with Live Music in the back ground

# "Fishes and More" leads the way in seafood dining



**PALM BEACH** – Fishes and More Restaurant opened up in the Arawak Gardens just 3 and a half years ago and has been a great success since day one. **PALM BEACH** – Fishes and More Restaurant opened up in the Arawak Gardens just 3 and a half years ago and has been a great success since day one. Word on the street is that once you eat at **Fishes and More**, consider yourself addicted. The owners Jeroen Kuling and Hans Heijink together with the staff Romalo, Heidi, Mariella, Denise and Chef Gerben work hard keeping the restaurant **open 7 days a week from 4 pm till 11pm** for everyone to enjoy. The ambiance at the restaurant is out of this world, whether dining inside in the relaxed air-conditioned

dinning room or outside on the terrace to enjoy the tropical breeze and daily live music. Most guests come in early for the **daily fresh catches**, such as Red snapper, grouper, mahi mahi, wahoo and tuna. Check with the server to find out about the Catch of the day. The chef will be more than happy to prepare your fish the way you like it best: grilled, deep-fried, pan-fried or the chef's choice. **Every Wednesday, seafood specials are prepared** depending on what the Fishermen bring in fresh out of the water that afternoon. These



specials usually include fresh Caribbean lobster and pounds of peeled shrimps. **Fishes and More** is for everyone, from large groups, families, couples and even singles who can't shake the seafood addiction can stop in for a fix of Pina Colada Shrimp. For those who like to try something different or have had their fill of spectacular seafood, the chef prepares a wonderful array of filet mignon, rib eye, wienerschnitzel, veal parmesan, and pasta specialties. **Great Seafood!!!** Fun and relaxed atmosphere. Right across from the high rise hotels. It is worth the short walk to a wonderful dinner ☐



**Fishes & More**  
"The Restaurant"



## The Earlybird menu

Served between 4 pm & 6.30 pm

Soup of the day  
Mixed Salad or Ceasar Salad  
\*\*\*\*\*

Catch of the day  
Filet Mignon  
Fettuccini Alfredo  
Chicken Breast  
\*\*\*\*\*

Hot chocolate fudge Sunday  
\*\*\*\*\*  
All main courses are served with potatoes au Gratin & fresh vegetables

The early bird menu is priced at \$ 21,75  
Service charge not included.

**Open Daily from 4pm - 11pm**

**For info. and reservations**

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**PALM BEACH** – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, **Texas de Brazil** will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

**Restaurant**  
**open daily**

Monday - Sat 6 pm - 11  
Sunday 5 pm - 11 pm

For more information or to  
make reservations, please  
call 586-4686. ☐







Space shuttle Discovery and a seven member crew liftoff at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla. on Sunday, March 15, 2009.

Associated Press

## Space shuttle Discovery blasts off with crew of 7

By MARCIA DUNN  
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Space shuttle Discovery and its crew of seven rocketed into orbit Sunday evening, setting off on a space station construction mission cut short by launch delays that dragged on for more than a month.

Discovery rose from its seaside pad just as the sun was setting, a spectacular sight for a space agency anxious to get the flight going. As the shuttle sped away like a brilliant star, part of the launch plume glowed pink, peach and golden. The shuttle was visible for more than four minutes.

A hydrogen leak prevented Discovery from lifting off Wednesday and, before that, hydrogen valves kept the shuttle grounded for weeks in February. Launch pad repairs took care of the leak, and the astronauts were able to board their spaceship and lift off.

“Well, you had a little bit of a wait but that will just make the payoff that much sweeter,” launch director Mike Leinbach told the astronauts.

Commander Lee Archambault and his crew, which includes two former schoolteachers, should reach the international space station Tuesday. They’re delivering one last set of solar wings for the space station and some critical equipment for a relatively new water-recycling system.

No one was more eager to see Discovery take

off than the three space station astronauts. Commander Mike Fincke was ecstatic when informed nothing was leaking at the pad. “That is most excellent news,” Fincke told Mission Control. “That’s exactly what’s been on top of our minds.”

During Wednesday’s try, hydrogen gas spewed into the air from a vent line connected to Discovery’s external fuel tank. NASA replaced the hookups, but could find nothing broken. The system remained tight during the countdown, and the only problem was a pressure drop in a helium-purge system that workers quickly resolved.

The only other oddity was a bat on the back of Discovery’s fuel tank Sunday afternoon. The small fruit bat posed no debris threat to the shuttle.

The four-day leak delay forced NASA to shorten Discovery’s flight by a day and cut out a spacewalk. Because a Russian Soyuz rocket launch March 26, Discovery needs to be gone from the space station by the time that spacecraft flies. The Soyuz will carry up a fresh crew for the space station.

Discovery’s mission will last 13 days and feature three spacewalks instead of four, the first of which will take place Thursday to install the new solar wings. The two wings will join six already in place and bring the orbiting outpost up to full power.

Continued on Page B3



An American International Group office building is shown in this Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2008 file photo taken in New York. American International Group is giving its executives tens of millions of dollars in new bonuses even though it received a taxpayer bailout of more than \$170 billion dollars. The Treasury Department determined that the government did not have the legal authority to block the current payments by the company. A white paper prepared by the company says that AIG is contractually obligated to pay a total of about \$165 million of previously awarded “retention pay” to employees in this unit by Sunday, March 15.

Associated Press

## Chorus of outrage over millions in AIG bonuses

WASHINGTON (AP) — Leaders of the White House economic team and the Senate’s top Republican bellowed about bonuses at a bailed-out insurance giant and pledged to prevent such payments in the future.

Continued on next Page

## Buoyed by market, Obama moves on small businesses



In this photograph provided by “Meet the Press,” Christina Romer, Chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, appears during the taping of “Meet the Press” Sunday, March 15, 2009, at the NBC studios in Washington.

Associated Press

By STEVEN R. HURST

WASHINGTON (AP) — Building on the U.S. stock market’s best week in more than three months, President Barack Obama planned Monday to commit billions of dollars to American small businesses — a sector that will be key to restoring American jobs.

Continued on Page B4



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In this photo provided by CBS, White House National Economic Council Chairman Lawrence Summers talks after appearing on CBS's "Face the Nation" in Washington, Sunday, March 15, 2009.

Associated Press

#### AIG BONUSES

*Continued from Page B1*

From one Sunday talk show to the next, they tore into the contracts that American International Group asserted had to be honored, to the tune of about \$165 million and payable to executives by Sunday — part of a larger total payout reportedly valued at \$450 million. The company has benefited from more than \$170 billion in a federal rescue.

AIG has agreed to Obama administration requests to restrain future payments. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner pressed the president's case with AIG's chairman, Edward Liddy, last week.

"He stepped in and berated

them, got them to reduce the bonuses following every legal means he has to do this," said Austan Goolsbee, staff director of President Barack Obama's Economic Recovery Advisory Board.

"I don't know why they would follow a policy that's really not sensible, is obviously going to ignite the ire of millions of people, and we've done exactly what we can do to prevent this kind of thing from happening again," Goolsbee said.

Added Lawrence Summers, Obama's top economic adviser: "The easy thing would be to just say ... off with their heads, violate the contracts. But you have to think about the consequences of breaking contracts for the overall system of law, for the overall financial system."

Summers said Geithner used all his power, "both legal and moral, to reduce the level of these bonus payments."

The Democratic administration's argument about the sanctity of contracts was more than Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky could bear.

"For them to simply sit there and blame it on the previous administration or claim contract — we all know that contracts are valid in this country, but they need to be looked at," McConnell said. "Did they enter into these contracts knowing full well that, as a practical matter, the

taxpayers of the United States were going to be reimbursing their employees? Particularly employees who got them into this mess in the first place? I think it's an outrage."

AIG reported this month that it had lost \$61.7 billion for the fourth quarter of last year, the largest corporate loss in history.

In a letter to Geithner dated Saturday, Liddy said outside lawyers had informed the company that AIG had contractual obligations to make the bonus payments and could face lawsuits if it did not do so.

Liddy said in his letter that "quite frankly, AIG's hands are tied," although he said that in light of the company's current situation he found it "distasteful and difficult" to recommend going forward with the payments.

Liddy said the company had entered into the bonus agreements in early 2008 before AIG got into severe financial straits and was forced to obtain a government bailout last fall.

The bulk of the payments at issue cover AIG Financial Products, the unit of the company that sold credit default swaps, the risky contracts that caused massive losses for the insurer.

Goolsbee acknowledged the AIG example could make it harder to sell the administration's financial plan to Congress. □



# Things are bleak in the state of journalism

By DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The state of journalism is bleak, but an annual study of the industry suggests all hope should not be lost.

While the business model of many news organizations appears to be fracturing, there's little indication that consumers are losing interest in news, says the Project for Excellence in Journalism. Its sixth annual State of the News Media survey was released on Sunday.

Four newspaper companies have sought bankruptcy protection in recent months, and the Rocky Mountain News in Denver stopped publication.

Yet The New York Times and Washington Post have bigger audiences than ever, when online readership is taken into account, said Tom Rosenstiel, project director. Traffic to the top 50 online news sites rose by 27 percent in 2008, the report said.

"This is not an industry that is dying," Rosenstiel said. "This is an industry that is in disorientation."

Local television news also is



A copy of the Friday, Feb. 27, 2009 edition of The Denver Post documents the demise of rival Rocky Mountain News in the Washington Street Printing Plant of the Denver Newspaper Agency in Denver on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009. E.W. Scripps Co., owners of the News, which is Colorado's oldest newspaper dating back to 1859, announced on Thursday that the paper will cease publication with the Friday, Feb. 27 edition.

in trouble. Revenues fell by 7 percent in 2008, which is eye-opening considering it was an election year and stations typically see an influx in political advertising.

Besides the Internet, cable news was a sector that flourished, due in large part to its focus on the presidential election, the report said. Newspapers have failed

to figure out how to make their Web sites profitable, Rosenstiel said. They are slow to realize that people are not going to pay for content in the way they do for traditional

newspapers.

But there are still things that can be tried, he said. They could try something modeled after the cable industry, where a fee to news producers is built into a customer's monthly fee for Internet service. They could set up online "malls" for local merchants or create specialized services for information that some in their communities might pay for. Partnerships have been born because of the tough financial times, such as local television affiliates of NBC and Fox sharing video for breaking news events, the report said. With layoffs prevalent, power is shifting to individual journalists away from institutions, he said.

Journalists are trying different ways of getting their work out, with Web sites such as MinnPost for arts coverage in Minneapolis. Globalpost.com pays a small fee to keep journalists working across the world. "The news audience is out there and is in some way growing," Rosenstiel said. "If the industry cannot find a way to monetize that, it may be that individual journalists and others will." □

*Associated Press*

## DISCOVERY

*Continued from Page B1*

The canceled spacewalk chores will be tackled by the space station crew after Discovery leaves.

Discovery also will deliver a spare urine-into-drinking water converter to replace one that's broken up there, and a flusher and iodine solution to get rid of bacteria that's lurking in the water dispenser.

NASA wants to double the size of the space station crew to six people by the end of May, and need the recycled water to drink.

Discovery originally was supposed to lift off Feb. 12, but NASA ordered extra tests for the valves that control the flow of hydrogen gas into the fuel tank. The three valves in the shuttle's engine compartment kept being replaced to ensure they were the best available and safe to fly.

One of these valves — which maintain tank pressure during liftoff — broke during the last shuttle launch in November. No harm was done, but NASA did not want to take any chances with Discovery.

Two educator astronauts are aboard Discovery: Joseph Acaba and Richard Arnold II, chosen by NASA five years ago. There also is one Japanese astronaut, Koichi Wakata, who will move into the space station for at least three months, replacing one of the current crew. Many of the 200 Japanese citizens on hand for the first launch attempt were gone by Sunday. □



Space shuttle Discovery crew members from left, mission specialist's John Phillips and Steve Swanson, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Koichi Wakata, pilot Tony Antonelli, mission specialist's Richard Arnold and Joseph Acaba and commander Lee Archambault, leave the Operations and Checkout building on their way to launch pad 39A at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., Sunday, March 15, 2009.

*Associated Press*





Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., left, speaks during a media availability on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, March 11, 2009, to discuss the budget, economy and jobs. At left is House Minority Leader John Boehner of Ohio.

*Associated Press*

### **SOUND ECONOMY**

*Continued from Page B1*

Bidding to minimize misgivings that his spending blueprint shorts small business owners, Obama has decided to announce a broad package of measures Monday that includes \$730 million from the stimulus plan. This money will be used to immediately reduce small-business lending fees and increase the government guarantee on some Small Business Administration loans to 90 percent.

The government also will take aggressive steps to boost bank liquidity with more than \$10 billion aimed at unfreezing the secondary credit market, according to officials briefed on the plan who demanded anonymity to avoid pre-empting the president's announcement. Small business owners have complained about difficulties obtaining credit from struggling banks.

Summers confirmed the announcement was in the works but did not offer details.

"It's a huge step in the right direction," Giovanni Coratolo, director of Small Business Policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said. "In this economy, having the least amount of risk for banks will incentivize banks to lend to small businesses. A lot of small businesses will benefit from this."

The announcement comes as Republicans have expressed misgivings over Obama's ambitious spending plan. In particular, opposition critics say Obama's budget proposal to raise taxes, starting in

2011, on individuals earning more than \$200,000 and on households earning more than \$250,000 will hurt small businesses.

Apparently buoyed by a nearly 10 percent gain in the stock markets last week, Christina Romer, chief of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, said Sunday that the administration believed the fundamentals of the economy were strong "in the sense that the American workers are sound, we have a good capital stock, we have good technology.

She added, however: "We know that — that temporarily we're in a mess, right? We've seen huge job loss, we've seen very large falls in GDP. So certainly in the short run we're in a — in a bad situation."

But her choice of words raised partisan eyebrows in the offices of some Republican congressional leaders, where aides recalled their party's presidential candidate, Sen. John McCain, saw his run for the White House seriously unravel after he declared U.S. economic fundamentals were strong late in the 2008 campaign. He issued that assessment as the country's financial system was on the verge of collapse.

While partisanship held sway across the Sunday television talk shows, there was general support for the remarks of the president's chief economic adviser, who called it "outrageous" that troubled insurance giant American International Group was paying out tens of millions in new bonuses after taking

\$170 billion in public bailout money.

Lawrence Summers said there was little the administration could do without "abrogating" existing contracts but that the matter should be dealt with in future regulations. AIG reported a loss of \$61.7 billion for the fourth quarter of last year — the largest corporate loss in history.

Adding to positive Obama administration language on the economy, Vice President Joe Biden said Saturday that he believed there are signs the public's confidence is growing in the Obama administration's ability to tackle the financial crisis.

Biden said that he and the president have no doubt that the country will overcome its economic problems. And he feels the recent uptick in the stock market was a result of the "Obama factor." He said people are starting to understand the president has a plan.

"There is no doubt in our minds and there is no doubt in the president's mind that in fact we will overcome this. We will climb out of this hole," Biden told The Associated Press in an interview in Little Rock, Arkansas. "It just takes some real perseverance and you've got to have a guy as gutsy as the president who's willing to make some really tough decisions."

Biden noted: "Consumer confidence is slightly up. The market is slightly up. It'll go down again, but the people are beginning to figure out that the president's got a plan and he believes we can work our way through this."

Even so, Obama's political allies are not taking chances. Organizing for America, whose almost 14 million-person e-mail list is drawn from voters who supported Obama last November, plans to mobilize them this week to build grass-roots support for the budget on the Internet and on phone lines.

"We didn't fight to shy away from the tough long-term decisions Washington has ducked for far too long," Obama political adviser David Plouffe wrote this weekend to members of the group, which is overseen by the Democratic National Committee.

Former Vice President Dick Cheney, meanwhile, said Sunday that Americans are less safe now that Barack has overturned Bush administration terrorism-fighting policies and that nearly all the Republican administration's goals in Iraq had been achieved.

Fulfilling campaign pledges, Obama has suspended military trials for suspected terrorists and announced he will close the U.S. detention facility at Guantanamo Bay,

Cuba, as well as overseas sites where the CIA has held some detainees. The president also ordered CIA interrogators to abide by the U.S. Army Field Manual's regulations for treatment of detainees and denounced waterboarding as torture.

Asked on CNN if he thought Obama had made Americans less safe with those actions, Cheney replied, "I do."

"I think those programs were absolutely essential to the success we enjoyed of being able to collect the intelligence that let us defeat all further attempts to launch attacks against the United States since 9/11," Cheney said.

"I think that's a great success story. It was done legally. It was done in accordance with our constitutional practices and principles," he said. "President Obama campaigned against it all across the country. And now he is making some choices that, in my mind, will, in fact, raise the risk to the American people of another attack."

Some Democratic lawmakers and other critics have denounced those and other Bush programs, such as warrantless surveillance, as counterproductive and illegal. Summers appeared on ABC's "This Week" and CBS's "Face the Nation." Romer was on NBC's "Meet the Press." Frank spoke on "Fox News Sunday." □

## **THE INFLUENCE GAME: New record for number of PACs**

By **ALAN FRAM**

*Associated Press Writer*

WASHINGTON — More groups than ever are contributing money to presidential and congressional candidates as their strongest growth in a generation reflects the fervor over last year's White House election and a desire for access and clout on Capitol Hill.

The Federal Election Commission says that on Jan. 1 there were 4,611 political action committees, which are formed by companies, unions or other groups to raise and spend money to help presidential and congressional candidates.

That was 9 percent more than the 4,234 PACs a year earlier.

Many of the ones created last year reflect the types of issues that President Barack Obama and Congress, now largely controlled by Democrats, hope to tackle this year.

Among those forming new committees were the National Asphalt Pavement Association and several local branches of the International Union of Operating Engineers, whose members could benefit from paving new roads; the Patriot Coal Corp. of St. Louis, a large coal producer concerned about energy issues; and Varian Medical Systems of Palo Alto, Calif., a producer of medical devices for treating cancer, which could be affected by Obama's health care plans.

One of the 540 committees started in 2008 was set up the National Association of Professional Employer Organizations, which represents businesses that handle human resources tasks for other companies. Its members hope lawmakers will make it easier for them to collect payroll taxes for their clients. □



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## Man kills four at gathering in Miami, then kills self

By TAMARA LUSH

Associated Press Writer

MIAMI – A man barged into a birthday party early Sunday, shot his estranged wife and three other people to death, then went home, set his truck and house on fire and killed himself, police said.

Witnesses described a chaotic scene that started when the man showed up uninvited at the party and told about a dozen people there that he blamed them for his wife leaving him, said homicide detective Ervens Ford.

Then he opened fire. Some took cover while others, including a pregnant woman, ran into the street.

"It was chaotic," Ford said. "I can't imagine what it was like in there."

The man also killed his 51-year-old wife's mother and daughter, along with her daughter's boyfriend, whose birthday they were celebrating, Ford said.

Police did not release the victims' names because other family members had not been notified. They said the man and his wife were married about four years and they weren't sure when she left him.

Officers got a call shortly after midnight that numerous shots had been fired and a red pickup truck had been spotted leaving the scene.

Juan Sosa, who lives a block away, was out walking his dog early Sunday when he heard two shots and saw people running toward him, screaming. Then he heard as many as two dozen more shots and ducked behind a large tree to call police.

"I didn't want to get hit," he said.

The pregnant woman who fled was taken to the hospital as a precaution, but she was not hurt.

Soon after, someone called 911 to say a building about three miles away was on fire and more shots had been fired. That's where officials found the alleged gunman dead.

Ford said he set fire to both his truck and the building he lived in before shooting himself.

Janseen Almodovar, who lives across the street, rushed outside when he heard people screaming and honking. He said the entire building and a truck out front were in flames.

"We thought the truck was going to blow up," Almodovar said.

Panicked neighbors weren't sure if anyone was inside the one-story ivory stucco building, but they couldn't knock because the fire was so intense.

Landlord Abel Loredo, who owns the building where the alleged gunman shot himself, said the man had lived there for five years and had always been on time with the rent for his one-bedroom, one-bathroom apartment.

Loredo declined to identify the man but said he had moved from Cuba about a decade ago and seemed very nice. The man was a cook at a restaurant in nearby Little Havana for a time before becoming an electrician a few years ago.

Neighbors said there had never been any problems with police and the man and his wife were often seen in their yard barbecuing. Loredo said the man's wife and her son had lived with him at some



A Miami police crime scene investigator photographs the burned house where a man shot himself after shooting four others at a family gathering at another location early Sunday, March 15, 2009 in Miami.

Associated Press

point, but he didn't know if they were still living there.

Sosa, who lives in the quiet neighborhood where the family gathering took place, said about 20 people ran into the street after the shots were fired. The last person he saw was a limping man who got into a red pickup truck and sped away without turning his lights on.

Sosa said he had seen the truck driving around the neighborhood earlier and that

his father remembered seeing it several times in the last few weeks. He did not know the people who were killed but

said he felt badly for them. "I feel sorry for the family," he said. "There's no excuse for that." □

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# Roadside bomb kills four U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan's east

By FISNIK ABRASHI

Associated Press Writer

KABUL (AP) — A roadside bomb killed four American soldiers in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday — new evidence of rising violence in a region where clashes and attacks in the first two months of 2009 more than doubled from the same period a year ago.

The spike in violence along the border is an early indication that roadside bombs and other ambushes are likely to surge as thousands of new U.S. forces arrive in Afghanistan this year. Brig. Gen. Richard Blanchette, a spokesman for the NATO-led force here, confirmed that a roadside bomb killed four U.S. troops in eastern Afghanistan. A U.S. statement indicated the troops were based in Jalalabad. A suicide bomber, meanwhile, attacked a NATO convoy in Kabul on Sunday but instead killed two passers-by — among 18 people killed Sunday, officials said.

Clashes and attacks in the eastern province of Kunar surged 131 percent in January and February from the same period in 2008, said Lt. Col. Rumi Nielson-Green, a U.S. spokeswoman.

Bomb and gunfire attacks are up in part because 700 10th Mountain Division soldiers were deployed to Kunar in early January, putting more soldiers in harm's way.



**U.S. soldier patrol near the site of an explosion in the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, March 15, 2009. A roadside bomb hit a convoy carrying the mayor of a key southern city Sunday, killing a passer-by, while clashes and bombings around the rest of Afghanistan killed 13 others, officials said.**

Kunar's rise in violence is likely indicative of what the 17,000 U.S. troops that President Barack Obama has ordered to Afghanistan will face later this year. Hoping to reverse Taliban gains, the troops will move into areas of the country where few other foreign or Afghan soldiers have held a long-term presence.

Many of those areas are likely to have conditions similar to Kunar, where "the enemy that

has a traditional hold in the area are deeply entrenched with the population," Nielson-Green said.

"The population is also very xenophobic and are largely 'fence sitters,'" Afghans who have not pledged allegiance to either the government or the militants, she said.

The 10th Mountain troops moved into Kunar, near the porous Pakistan border, while the Pakistani military

was conducting a six-month offensive against militants in its Bajur tribal area, which has been an important safe-haven for insurgents.

Bajur is a rumored hiding place for al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, and Pakistan's offensive there earned praise from American officials concerned that militants were using the area as a base from which to plan attacks in Afghanistan.

Last week, Pakistan signed a

*Associated Press*

## Jurists call for Gaza war crimes investigation

By BEN HUBBARD

Associated Press Writer

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Sixteen prominent jurists have called on the United Nations to launch an investigation into alleged war crimes committed by Israeli troops and Palestinian armed groups during the recent Gaza war, in a statement released Monday.

In an open letter to U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and the members of the Security Council, the petitioners say they have been "shocked to the core" by events in Gaza and ask world leaders to send an "unfaltering signal that the targeting of civilians during conflict is unacceptable by any party on any count."

The letter is supported by Amnesty International and signed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and investigators who worked in Kosovo, Darfur, Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia and other places.

It calls for a U.N. commission of inquiry with an impartial mandate that can recommend potential avenues for prosecution, should violations be found.

Israel said it launched its Gaza offensive to stop years of Palestinian rocket fire from Gaza on Israeli towns. Some 1,400 Palestinians were killed during the three-week war, including



**Members of an Arab league delegation speak to the media after their arrival in Gaza at the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, Sunday, Feb. 22, 2009. An Arab League delegation is in Gaza to document alleged Israeli war crimes committed during its three-week offensive in the territory.**

*Associated Press*

to 900 civilians, according to the Palestinian Center for Human Rights. Thirteen Israelis also died, including three civilians. Both sides have faced — and staunchly denied — war crimes allegations since the war ended in late January, Israel for using disproportionate force and failing to protect civilians, Hamas for firing rockets at civilian areas and using human shields. Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor said there was no evidence Israeli troops had committed war crimes. □

peace deal with the Mamund tribe after claiming victory in its fight. The tribe controls a large swath of Bajur and its ranks have yielded many Taliban leaders. The tribe, whose members straddle the Afghan-Pakistan border, has agreed to stop sheltering foreign fighters and hand over local Taliban leaders there.

But while Pakistan has seen success in Bajur, violence has more than doubled in Kunar across the border in Afghanistan.

Nielson-Green acknowledged that violence is rising in part because more fighters crossed the border to escape Pakistan's military offensive. But the main reason, she said, was the influx of U.S. troops.

Many of the recent attacks, she said, have been relatively ineffective mortar, rocket or machine gun assaults.

While Pakistan's operation in Bajur was successful, militants still "enjoy safe haven and support," in other tribal areas in Pakistan, Nielson-Green said.

Gen. Abdul Jalal Jalal, the Kunar provincial police chief, said he is concerned that ongoing peace talks between Pakistani Taliban and Pakistan's government may be used by the militants as a chance to cross the border and increase their attacks in Afghanistan.

The Taliban regularly use roadside bombs against Afghan and foreign troops. Last year the number of such attacks rose by 30 percent, according to NATO figures.

In the latest Afghan violence, a roadside bomb in eastern Afghanistan killed four American troops Sunday, NATO said. The U.S. Central Command confirmed that one of the four was a U.S. airman assigned to the 755th Air Expeditionary Group.

In another bomb attack, the mayor of Kandahar in southern Afghanistan survived a roadside bomb blast Sunday that killed a civilian and wounded two others, said Najibullah Khan, a police spokesman.

In the capital, a suicide bomber on foot targeted a NATO patrol but killed two Afghan civilians, said Kabul police chief Lt. Gen. Abdul Rahman Rahman.

The bomber also wounded 14 civilians, the Interior Ministry said. No foreign troops were injured. □



# Official: Pakistan to restore chief justice

By CHRIS BRUMMITT

Associated Press Writers

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)

— Pakistan agreed Monday to reinstate a fired chief justice, a government official said, a move that could help defuse a political crisis that has sparked street battles and raised fears of instability in the country at a time of surging Islamist violence.

Opposition leaders and lawyers had vowed to sit-in at the parliament later Monday until Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry, known for his independence and willingness to challenge authority, was reinstated. The capital has been barricaded and scores of extra police brought in amid fears of violence.

“Yes, the chief justice is going to be restored,” said a senior government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the prime minister was due formally announce the decision later Monday. He said Chaudhry would be sworn in on March 22, the day after the current chief justice was due to retire. Presidential spokesman Farhatullah Babar said Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani would soon have “good news” for the country that would “end the crisis.”

The concession came as thousands of protesters led by Nawaz Sharif, the head of the largest opposition party and a longtime foe of President Asif Ali Zardari, were traveling to Islamabad in a convoy to join the planned sit-in. Sharif joined the convoy after ignoring a house arrest order in his hometown of Lahore in Punjab, where his supporters fought running battles with police.

Party spokesman Pervaiz Rasheed said it had received confirmation of the government’s decision to restore Chaudhry from “its messengers” and said Sharif would address supporters after Gilani’s address, following which the convoy would return to Lahore.

Chaudhry was fired by former President Pervez Musharraf in 2007 after he took up cases challenging his rule, sparked a wave of protests that helped force Musharraf from power in 2008.

Musharraf’s successor, Zardari, pledged to reinstate Chaudhry within 30 days of taking office, but reneged on the promise, apparently out of fear the justice might target him for past corruption cases. Lawyers and civil rights activists remained committed to the cause of Chaudhry’s reinstatement, believing it was a vital first step in getting an independent judiciary in Pakistan. The court system has often been abused by past rulers to cement their grip on power. It was not clear whether Zardari, who has immunity from criminal prosecution as president, had secured any guarantees to address those

fears.

Lawyers and civil rights activists remained committed to the cause of Chaudhry’s reinstatement, believing it was a vital first step in getting an independent judiciary in Pakistan. The court system has often been abused by past rulers to cement their grip on power.

Their movement got a boost last month when Sharif threw his full weight behind it after he and his brother, Shahbaz, were banned from elected office by the Supreme Court. Zardari then dismissed the government led by Shahbaz in the Punjab province, the wealthiest in Pakistan and a vital prize for politicians.

On Saturday, the government said it would appeal the Supreme Court ruling.

In recent days, U.S. officials, including Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, had



Lawyers’ leader Athar Minallah talks to media near a house of Pakistan’s deposed chief justice, whose reinstatement is demanded by the opposition, in Islamabad, Pakistan on Wednesday, March 11, 2009. Pakistan banned protests in two provinces and arrested scores of lawyers and opposition leaders Wednesday ahead of planned rallies threatening to batter the already-shaky rule of its pro-Western government.

Associated Press

spoken to Zardari and Sharif, urging them to reach a deal. Washington and other Western capitals had been concerned the crisis was distracting the nuclear-armed country from its fight against Taliban and al-Qaida militants operating along the Afghan border.

The early morning announcement capped a day of high drama.

Before dawn, hundreds of police surrounded Sharif’s

residence in Lahore, carrying an order for his house arrest. Sharif denounced the order as illegal and later left the house in a convoy of vehicles as police stood by. It was unclear why they relented, but Lahore is Sharif’s political stronghold.

Some of the protesters defied police barricades to gather near the city’s main courts complex and pelt riot police with rocks. □

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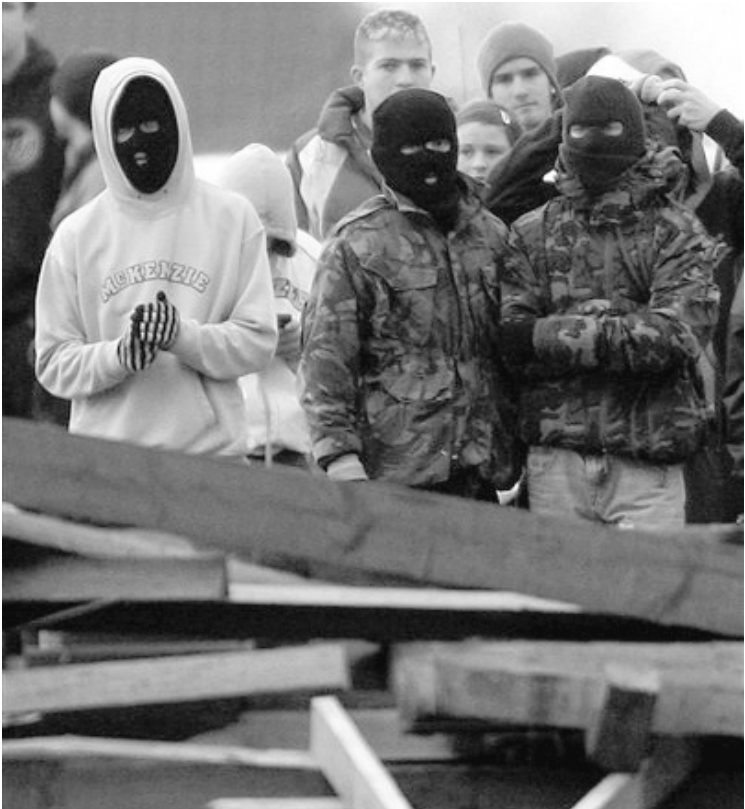
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# Sinn Fein, IRA dissidents vie for Catholic support



Youths, some of them masked, stand behind a makeshift barricade blocking a railway line, close to where a leading Irish Republican was arrested in connection with the recent murders of two British soldiers, in Lurgan, Northern Ireland, Saturday, March 14, 2009. Police arrested three suspected IRA dissidents, including a well-known Irish republican Saturday, on suspicion of killing two off-duty British soldiers, an attack designed to trigger wider violence in Northern Ireland.

Associated Press

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK  
Associated Press Writer  
LURGAN, Northern Ireland (AP) — Graffiti on the Catholic side of town condemn Sinn Fein politicians as British stooges. Alongside black-stenciled images of masked gunmen, slogans proclaim allegiance to IRA dissidents who fatally shot a policeman a few miles away. On Saturday, teenage boys here blocked roads and threw bricks and Molotov cocktails at police who arrested a local man wanted for the killing of two off-duty British soldiers.

Sinn Fein has persuaded most of Northern Ireland’s Irish Catholics to accept peace through compromise. But the Irish nationalist party still struggles for the loyalty of job-hungry, lawless Catholic neighborhoods like Kilwilkie, on the wrong side of the tracks in this mostly Protestant town. If Sinn Fein cannot win over such pockets of bitterness and alienation, the dissidents could grow in numbers and strength — and eventually mount far deadlier attacks than this month’s shootings of soldiers and a policeman. Analysts say power-sharing — the central achievement of Northern Ireland’s 1998 peace deal — could not survive a sustained campaign of paramilitary bloodshed.

Sinn Fein pleasantly surprised its Protestant partners in government this month by calling on its backers to help police track down and imprison the gunmen. But the move means Sinn Fein has finally put itself on a collision course with dangerous die-hards in its own working-class base — people who still inspire a potent mixture of fear and reverence. “You wouldn’t want to be seen by certain neighbors calling the police, let’s leave it at that,” said Marie, a Catholic

mother of four pushing her two youngest children in a stroller uphill from Kilwilkie, past the railway line, to the Protestant center of Lurgan.

Like several other residents interviewed before and after Saturday’s riots, Marie would talk only if her last name and other details of her identity were concealed.

“The fear is back,” she said. “When the ‘troubles’ were on, you were always afraid of what the other side might do to you up in town. Now you’re much more afraid to speak your mind for fear of what your own people might do to you back home.”

The fear in Kilwilkie centers on supporters of Colin Duffy, whom police and locals alike regard as the IRA godfather figure of the neighborhood. He was repeatedly charged with IRA murders and other crimes in the 1990s — including for shooting two policemen through the back of the head in what was the IRA’s last fatal attack — but was never successfully prosecuted. Duffy publicly broke away from Sinn Fein last year and joined a new group fronted by IRA veterans called Eirigi, “Rise up” in Gaelic. The group said it wasn’t promoting dissident violence but understood why people might want to keep attacking security forces in a state that remains firmly British territory. Police arrested Duffy on Saturday on suspicion of involvement in the first deadly dissident attack March 7, when a splinter group called the Real IRA opened fire on off-duty soldiers collecting pizzas from two delivery men. Two soldiers were killed and four others, including both civilians, were badly wounded.

Duffy’s mostly teenage acolytes covered their faces with masks, scarves and hoods — and bombarded police for hours. Because of their heavy protective equipment, officers reported only one minor injury. Sinn Fein, which often deploys officials to calm crowds and prevent riots in Belfast, was nowhere to be seen. The area’s Sinn Fein representative in the Northern Ireland Assembly, John O’Dowd, lives in the neighboring town of Craigavon. It was there that the Continuity IRA shot to death a policeman March 9 as his unit responded to an emergency call near the hard-line Catholic Drumbeg housing project.

O’Dowd called that killing “murder,” a word that Sinn Fein

never used when describing the IRA’s killings of nearly 300 police from 1970 to 1997.

He said he has been trying to talk sense to dissident leaders in the area for more than a year, but they rejected his overtures.

“There is no point in building a power-sharing agreement, a new society and a new policing service just for people to take shots at them and kill people who are part of that new creation,” said O’Dowd, 41, who unlike the previous generation of Sinn Fein leaders never spent time in prison for IRA convictions.

O’Dowd conceded that Sinn Fein’s call for its supporters to tell police about the dissidents in their midst “is placing myself and others in my party in great personal difficulty. But we’re prepared for that.”

He said some of the dissident leaders “were never with us. Some may have been in the past, and they went away. And I’m glad they went away.”

Just as police officers are having to increase their personal security precautions across Northern Ireland, so are Sinn Fein activists. They have learned from the fratricidal history of Irish republicanism — when splits lead to bloody feuds — that it could just be a matter of time before the Real IRA, Continuity IRA or another band of alienated militants turns its guns on republican peaceniks.

Some analysts even openly wonder whether Martin McGuinness — the former IRA commander who is Sinn Fein’s top official in the power-sharing government — might face a dissident assassin’s bomb or bullet someday. McGuinness infuriated the dissidents last week, before leaving on his current United States trip, by calling them “traitors to the island of Ireland.”

Belfast commentator and author Malachi O’Doherty said McGuinness was taking the same blunt-spoken road as Michael Collins, the key figure in the old IRA’s 1919-21 war of independence against Britain. When Collins signed a treaty that accepted the partition of Ireland and created a new southern state still symbolically tied to Britain, he was assassinated by the anti-treaty IRA faction within the year.

“I am not concerned about my safety and my security,” McGuinness said during a public appearance Sunday in New York City. “I am not going to be intimidated.”



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	matinee: 1:55	late show: 12:00	
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU</b>	daily: 6:45 9:20	
	matinee:	late show: 11:55	
<b>PG</b>	<b>THE PINK PANTHER 2</b>	daily: 4:05 6:20 8:20 10:20	
	matinee: 12:00 2:05	late show: 12:25	
<b>R</b>	<b>THE INTERNATIONAL</b>	daily: 4:55 7:20 9:50	
	matinee: 12:05 2:30	late show: 12:20	
<b>PG</b>	<b>HOTEL FOR DOGS</b>	daily: 4:40	
	matinee: 12:20 2:25	late show:	
<b>PG</b>	<b>PAUL BLART: MALL COP</b>	daily: 4:15 6:20 8:20 10:15	
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	matinee: 12:00 2:30	late show: 12:10	
<b>R</b>	<b>WATCHMEN</b>	daily: 4:40 8:00	<b>NEW</b>
	matinee: 1:15	late show: 11:10	
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>TAKEN</b>	daily: 4:10 6:20 8:20 10:20	
	matinee: 12:05 2:10	late show: 12:20	
<b>R</b>	<b>THE INTERNATIONAL</b>	daily: 4:50 7:20 9:50	
	matinee: 11:55 2:25	late show: 12:15	
<b>PG</b>	<b>PAUL BLART: MALL COP</b>	daily: 4:15 6:10 8:10 10:15	
	matinee: 12:10 2:15	late show: 12:25	
<b>PG</b>	<b>THE PINK PANTHER 2</b>	daily: 3:40 5:50 7:50 9:55	
	matinee: 1:40	late show: 12:00	

**DRIVE-IN** March 12 – March 15

<b>PG</b>	<b>HOTEL FOR DOGS</b>	Thursday: 8:00 Friday: 8:00 & 10:30
<b>PG</b>	<b>HOTEL FOR DOGS</b>	Saturday: 8:00 & 10:30 Sunday: 8:00

**Matinee: sat & sun | Late show: fri & sat**



# Turkey's investigation of alleged coup plot widens

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA

Associated Press Writer

ISTANBUL (AP) — The allegations in Turkey's biggest legal case are the stuff of a dark thriller: mysterious murders, hit lists, stashed grenades, a plot to topple the government and, behind it all, a network of conspirators with links to the state as well as organized crime.

The arrest of 219 people in a sweeping, two-year investigation is part of a struggle for control in Turkey, where an elected government run by pious Muslims is undermining military-backed elites that owned the country after Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, a war hero, created a secular state out of chaos in 1923.

On March 10, prosecutors filed a second indictment in the case against Ergenekon, an ultranationalist gang that takes its name from a legendary valley in Central Asia believed to be the ancestral homeland of Turks. Suspects include academics, journalists, businessmen, retired generals and a few active-duty officers, most of them known to be secular-minded foes of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. One of those detained on allegations of links to Ergenekon was Mustafa Balbay, the chief journalist in Ankara for Cumhuriyet, a secular newspaper critical of the government.

Reporters without Borders, a Paris-based group, said there was "so far no evidence" against Balbay amid concerns that prosecutors were casting their net too wide and could undercut their own credibility. Prosecutors accuse suspects of seeking to foment chaos and compel the military to take over in a manner similar to past coups that ousted less stable, civilian governments. Ergenekon is seen as the remnants of the "deep state," a term for state-linked networks whose alleged murders and abductions peaked at the height of a Kurdish rebellion and Cold War-era rifts.

Hugh Pope, Turkey project director for the International Crisis Group, praised the push for "accountability" as overdue in a nation whose government



In this Oct. 20, 2008 file photo, demonstrators display a banner with the pictures of the leading defendants and a slogan reads that: "The plot will be foiled, U.S.A will lose, Turkey will win" during a protest in front of the Silivri prison in Silivri, west of Istanbul, Turkey. Turkey's biggest legal case is the stuff of a sinister drama: mysterious murders, hit lists, stashed grenades, an alleged plot to topple the government and, behind it all, a network of conspirators said to be intent on restoring military rule in the predominantly Muslim country. On Tuesday, March 10, 2009, prosecutors filed a second indictment in the case against Ergenekon, an ultranationalist gang that takes its name from a legendary valley in Central Asia believed to be the ancestral homeland of Turks.

has strong public support, but where the military remains a powerful, behind-the-scenes force in politics.

"This is very close to the bone in Turkey," Pope said. "Both sides are moving in such ways not to push the other one over the edge." The military appears to be cooperating, and the justice minister recently visited the armed forces chief in what

commentators interpreted as an attempt to smooth tension over questions about possible military involvement in the alleged conspiracy. Turkish media said the new indictment includes allegations that several military commanders plotted a coup in 2004. Those allegations emerged in 2007 in Nokta, a weekly magazine that published excerpts from a diary

*Associated Press* that it said belong to Adm. Ozden Ornek, who retired.

The diary reports on plans for coups codenamed "Blonde Girl" and "Moonlight" that were abandoned, partly because of a lack of support from other commanders.

Nokta closed soon after a police raid on its offices. Ornek denied he wrote the diary.

The Ergenekon gang is suspected

in attacks on a newspaper and a courthouse, and plots to kill the prime minister and author Orhan Pamuk, Turkey's Nobel laureate. The crackdown led to the overnight detention last week of Mehmet Ulger, commander of paramilitary forces in Malatya when three members of a Christian publishing house were murdered there in 2007.

Ulger was interrogated, but not charged. A court ordered him not to leave Turkey, the Anatolia news agency reported. The first, 2,455-page indictment was completed on July 10, 2008, more than a year after the probe was launched after the seizure of hand grenades at the Istanbul home of a noncommissioned officer. The second indictment seeks life in prison for two former generals, Hursit Tolon and Sener Eruygur, for allegedly plotting to overthrow the government. Burhan Kuzu, a ruling party lawmaker and head of Parliament's Constitutional Commission, said he was shocked by the breadth of the alleged conspiracy, apparently aimed at creating an image of Turkey as ungovernable and at the mercy of Muslim extremists. □

## Anti-government protests in Hungary

By PABLO GORONDI

Associated Press Writer

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Several thousand people held anti-government protests in the Hungarian capital during a national holiday on Sunday, and police detained 35 people.

Dressed in riot gear, the police chased some of the protesters through the streets of Budapest and prevented them from reaching Parliament, where violent anti-government protests had taken place in 2006.

At one point Sunday, tear gas was used to drive back a small group of demonstrators that tried to attack police lines near St. Stephen's Basilica, but law enforcement officials denied claims by Krisztina Morvai, a right-wing politician taking part in the protests, that she was beaten by police.

The detainees included Gyorgy Budahazy and Laszlo Torockai, leaders of extreme right-wing radical groups, said Budapest police spokeswoman Eva Tafferner. The radicals have been holding sometimes violent protests for years against Socialist Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany, who came to power in 2004. But Hungary's current economic crisis has intensified anti-government sentiment in the country.

Also Sunday, another radical group, the Hungarian Guard, swore in 600 new members at Budapest's Heroes' Square. A local



Hungarian riot police secure a street from right wing protestors demonstrating against Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany and his Socialist government during a national day marking the anniversary of the 1848-1849 revolution and war against the Habsburgs in Budapest, Hungary, Sunday, March 15, 2009.

*Associated Press*

court disbanded the group last year, but the Guard is appealing the ruling. Hungary has been among the countries in Eastern Europe hardest hit by the global economic crisis, and it received a \$25.1 billion bailout led by the International Monetary Fund late last year. Hungary's economy is expected to shrink by at least 4 percent in 2009.

Sunday's national holiday commemorates the unsuccessful 1848 revolution against the Habsburgs. □



# Iraq's al-Maliki: U.S. will stay in insecure areas



U.S. Army soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment bow their heads in prayer after a Purple Heart ceremony for three soldiers at Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday, March 15, 2009.

Associated Press

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA  
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) — U.S. troops will not be removed from areas of Iraq that are not completely secure or where there is a high probability that attacks could resume after the Americans leave, Iraq's prime minister said Sunday.

Nouri al-Maliki said in an interview with The Associated Press that he had told President Barack Obama and other top U.S. officials that any withdrawals "must be done with our approval" and in coordination with the Iraqi government.

"I do not want any withdrawals except in areas considered 100 percent secure and under control," al-Maliki said during his flight from Australia to Baghdad at the end of a five-day visit.

"Any area where there is a likelihood of a resumption of attacks, withdrawals from there will be postponed," he said.

The U.S.-Iraq security pact that went into effect Jan. 1 calls for U.S. combat forces to leave the cities by the end of June in the first step of a plan to remove all American troops from Iraq by the end of 2011. Obama wants to withdraw all combat troops by September 2010, leaving behind a residual force of up to 50,000 soldiers to train Iraqi forces and go after al-Qaida.

In Washington, a senior administration official said Obama "has talked with and consulted with the Iraqis" and has said that "obviously we want to sustain the security gains of the last year."

He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was referring to private conversations.

Al-Maliki did not specify areas where the removal of U.S. troops might be delayed. But those areas would likely include Mosul, the country's third largest city, and Diyala province northeast of Baghdad.

Al-Qaida and other Sunni extremist groups operate in both areas, despite repeated offensives by U.S. and Iraqi

forces. An Iraqi soldier was killed Sunday in a bombing in Mosul and a police lieutenant colonel was shot dead in another part of the city, police said.

An Iraqi woman was killed Sunday when she was caught in the crossfire during a U.S.-Iraqi raid against insurgents west of Mosul, U.S. and Iraqi officials said.

Also Sunday, a senior U.S. officer told reporters that American troops will focus on attacking insurgent supply routes and rural hide-outs after combat troops withdraw from Baghdad at the end of June.

Brig. Gen. Frederick Rudesheim, a deputy commander of U.S. forces in Baghdad, said the shift from the cities to large bases outside will help make the capital safer because U.S. troops can go after militants at the source: The countryside where they plan their attacks and load up on guns and bombs.

Rudesheim spoke a week after two separate suicide attacks killed more than 60 people in the Baghdad area, raising new concerns about the readiness of Iraqi forces to take over their own security.

"I want to leave it very clear that there's no cessation of combat operations" after June 30, Rudesheim told reporters in Baghdad's heavily guarded Green Zone.

"We understand that we're going to have the vast majority of our formations moving out of the city proper and moving to the rural belts," he said.

"We're talking about an enemy that tries to establish itself in rural areas and establish support zones in the rural areas around Baghdad ... and from there conducts operations into the more urban areas" of the capital, he added.

He also said U.S. troops would continue combat operations in the cities after June 30 but from bases outside town rather than outposts that were established throughout various neighborhoods as part of the 2007 U.S. troop surge.

He said the giant Camp Victory complex on the western outskirts of Baghdad

will remain open, but the fate of U.S. military forces in the central Green Zone remains under discussion.

"We will not forsake the security that has been established by the Iraqi security forces and coalition forces," he said.

Rudesheim said U.S. military transition teams that train Iraqi forces will remain at posts within the city.

U.S. and Iraqi forces have also relied on Sunni volunteer fighters — many of them former insurgents — to maintain security in Baghdad and rural areas around the capital.

Last year, the Iraqi government took over responsibility for paying the fighters, known as Sons of Iraq, from the U.S. military and pledged to bring 20 percent of them into the mostly Shiite army and the police. The rest will get civilian jobs, the government promised.

But Rudesheim said he was concerned the Iraqi government's budget problems had slowed the integration.

Iraq's parliament passed a \$58.6 billion budget earlier this month after making drastic cuts as oil prices plunged from a mid-July high of nearly \$150 a barrel to about \$46. As a result, the government has implemented a police hiring freeze, said Rudesheim.

He said the Iraqi government has continued paying the fighters but has not integrated them into the security forces "to the degree that was anticipated." U.S. officials have expressed concern that some of the volunteers may return to insurgent ranks if the government reneges on its commitments.

But a leading Sunni sheik who heads the fighters in Anbar province said the volunteers must show patience and support the government in time of economic crisis.

"If the state is facing a financial crisis, we should help and not insist upon joining (the security forces)," Sheik Ahmed Abu Risha said. "We need to think about the future of our nation." □

## Bomb in Yemen kills 4 South Koreans, 1 Yemeni

By AHMED AL-HAJ  
Associated Press Writer

SAN'A, Yemen (AP) — A bomb killed four South Korean tourists and their local guide in Yemen on Sunday, officials said, the latest such attack targeting foreigners visiting this poor Arab country that has both famed historic sites and a strong al-Qaida presence.

The attack occurred as the tourists were posing for photographs near the ancient fortress city of Shibam — a UNESCO World Heritage site known as "the Manhattan of the desert" because of its towering 16th century mud brick buildings — said Yemeni security officials.

There were conflicting reports about the nature of the bombing, with one security official saying it was a suicide attack and another saying it was a roadside bomb detonated by remote control. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

A South Korean Foreign Ministry official confirmed the tourists were killed in the attack. He spoke on condition of anonymity in line with ministry policy.

The Yemeni Ministry of Tourism said the dead South Koreans included two men and two women. Their Yemeni guide was also killed in the attack, which wounded four other foreigners and an unspecified number of Yemenis, said the ministry's statement.

The city of Shibam in Yemen's southern Hadramut province is one of the country's most prized tourist sites. The ministry said it was not canceling any tours in the country and has stepped up security for all other tourist groups.

This impoverished country on the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula is Osama bin Laden's ancestral homeland and has long been a center of militant activity despite government efforts to fight al-Qaida and other extremists.

In January 2008, suspected al-Qaida militants opened fire on a convoy of tourists in Hadramut, killing two Belgian tourists and their Yemeni driver. A suicide bomber detonated his car among tourists at an ancient temple in central Yemen in July 2007, killing eight Spaniards and two Yemenis.

Militants in Yemen have also targeted foreign diplomatic and military targets in the country. A half dozen gunmen and two vehicles packed with explosives attacked the U.S. Embassy in the Yemeni capital, San'a, in September 2008, killing 16 people, including six militants. Yemen was also the site of the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole that killed 17 American sailors. □



# Chavez: Russia jets welcome, but no Venezuela base

By **CHRISTOPHER TOOTHAKER**

Associated Press Writer

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — President Hugo Chavez said Sunday that Russian bombers would be welcome in Venezuela, but the socialist leader denied that his country would offer Moscow its territory for a military base.

Chavez — a fierce critic of Washington with close ties to Russia and Cuba — said his government did not raise the possibility, as Russian media had reported.

“It’s not like that,” the president said, responding to a report by Interfax news agency quoting the chief of staff of Russia’s long range aviation, Maj. Gen. Anatoly Zhikharev, as saying some strategic bombers could be based on an island offered by Venezuela.

Zhikharev reportedly said Saturday that Chavez had

offered “a whole island with an airdrome, which we can use as a temporary base for strategic bombers.”

Speaking during his weekly television and radio program, Chavez said he told Russian President Dmitry Medvedev that his nation’s bombers would be allowed to land in Venezuela if necessary, but no such plans have been made.

Venezuela hosted two Russian Tu-160 bombers in September for training flights and joined Russian warships two months later for naval exercises in the Caribbean.

“I told President Medvedev that any time Russia’s strategic aviation needs to make a stop in Venezuela as part of its strategic plans, Venezuela is available,” he said. Interfax also reported that Zhikharev said Russian bombers could be based in communist-led Cuba,

but a Kremlin official said Zhikharev had been speaking hypothetically.

Kremlin official Alexei Pavlov responded to the report on Saturday, saying that “the military is speaking about technical possibilities, that’s all.”

“If there will be a development of the situation, then we can comment,” Pavlov said.

Venezuela and Cuba have close political and energy relations with Russia, which has been working to reassert itself as a military force.

Russia resumed long-range bomber patrols in 2007 after a 15-year hiatus.

During Sunday’s program, Chavez said his government may expand a military base on the Caribbean island of La Orchila, approximately 110 miles (180 kilometers) off the South American country’s central coast.

“It’s a strategic point, but



In this photo released by Miraflores Press Office, Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez speaks during his weekly radio and television show “Hello President” in Cumana, Venezuela, Sunday, March 15, 2009. Chavez said that Russian bombers would be welcome in Venezuela, but denied that his country would offer Moscow its territory for a military base.

Associated Press

not just for a naval base. It’s also an economic zone,” he said, noting that installations for fishermen could be constructed.

La Orchila is already home to a small military base, including helicopter landing pads and docks, as well as a presidential residence. □




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at the thirteen terrible years Papillon spent in prison in French Guyana.

Papillon Restaurant's menu reflects the Frenchman's arduous journey to freedom: classic French dishes have been dusted with daring Caribbean flair and are a culinary journey for your taste buds. The spacious outside terrace is perfect for casual fine dining; the

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highest quality ham. The flavor and texture of the ham is the only one of its kind and the experience of the chef carving your personal slice is irreplaceable.

The menu varies with a wide array of Italian dishes including a Sicilian-style thin crust pizza dripping with cheese, fresh-made tomato sauce and a variety of toppings in the meat, seafood and veggie categories.

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salads, homemade soups starting at \$6 and authentic Italian lasagnas & pastas starting at just \$14. The staff at this popular eatery has set the standard on the island for the term "great service" not only with your dining pleasure, but recognized as 'the' professionals in assisting guests with the perfect cocktail, paired wine or other beverages. After just one dinner at Casa Tua, you'll know your home in this family owned eatery. Victor Nataf and his sons Daveed and Gregory are always there to welcome you with the rest of



their staff. Gregory spends most of his time in the kitchen as the head chef repeating the recipes and perfect preparations passed to him from his uncle and three siblings who are renowned for their Mediterranean flair throughout France.

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PALM BEACH - Bugaloe Beach Bar is well known for its fun and relaxed ambiance at De Palm Pier between RIU Palace and the Radisson Resort. For years the beach bar has been the place for unforgettable fun parties which have turned out to be ever lasting memories for many Aruba visitors and local residents. And the fun filled events make Bugaloe even more special!

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Three times a week Bugaloe is the stage for live concerts. On Tuesday from 5-8pm the band JOYRIDE will celebrate sunset with hot Latin tunes. Fridays is also a big hit as LOTUS will ease out the week from 5-8pm with the greatest ballads from the 80's and 90's. MARISELA

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### Golf tournament

A new tradition is born! The first Bugaloe Open is scheduled for Saturday April 25th, 2009. Golfers from Aruba and around the world will participate in this two players scramble golf tournament with motto: Fun, friends... and golf! In a relaxed ambiance and organized in every detail, the Bugaloe Open will welcome any golfer, no matter what handicap one has. You can already sign up at the Pro Shop of Tierra del Sol, where the event will take place on its 18 holes golf course. The tournament will

be completed with a splashing party at Bugaloe Beach Bar and with a delicious dinner buffet.

For more information, call Tierra del Sol at (297) 586 0978 or send an email to:

oliver.riding@tierradelisol.com





# 'Witch Mountain' races to top spot at box office



Cast members Dwayne Johnson, center, Alexander Ludwig, right, and AnnaSophia Robb pose together at the after party for the premiere of 'Race to Witch Mountain' in Los Angeles on Wednesday, March 11, 2009.

(AP Photo/Matt Sayles)

By DERRIK J. LANG,  
AP Entertainment Writer  
LOS ANGELES — Disney's "Race to Witch Mountain" raced to No. 1 at the weekend box office, bypassing expectations with \$25 million in ticket sales. The PG-rated sci-fi flick starring Dwayne Johnson as a

cab driver with a pair of alien teenagers along for the ride topped the R-rated superhero epic "Watchmen," which earned \$18.1 million in its second week. Mark Zoradi, president of Disney's motion-picture group, said analysts had predicted that "Race to Witch Mountain,"

director Andy Fickman's re-imagining of the 1975 live-action film "Escape to Witch Mountain," would fly away with \$20 million or less. Now he expects this "Witch Mountain" to maintain a high orbit in theaters with kids on spring break.

"I think audiences this weekend were really drawn to the action adventure of 'Race to Witch Mountain,'" said Zoradi. "There was also this element of parents over 30 who remembered the original and were drawn to this one, so I think that combination is what helped us exceed what folks in the industry thought this movie was going to do."

Ticket sales for "Watchmen" plummeted 67 percent from last weekend's \$55.2 million debut, according to studio estimates Sunday. Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros. executive vice president of distribution, said the studio anticipated the big dip for director Zack Snyder's comic book adaptation about a team of subversive superheroes.

"It's very common with higher profile, highly anticipated movies," said Goldstein.

Also opening this weekend in wide release was "The Last House on the Left," the Universal horror remake, which turned up at No. 3 with \$14.7 million in ticket sales, and "Miss March," the Fox Atomic comedy in the No. 10 spot with \$2.4 million. 20th Century Fox's thriller "Taken" remained at No. 4 with \$6.7 million in its seventh weekend in theaters.

Factoring in 2009's higher admission prices, the weekend box office total was down 16 percent compared with last year, making it the first down weekend in six weeks. Paul Dergarabedian, president of box office tracker Media By Numbers, does not believe the shift signals the end of 2009's otherwise stellar year at the box office.

"I don't think this down weekend reflects any kind of lack of interest by the audience," Dergarabedian

said. "I think it has to do with 'Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who' opening a year ago with \$45 million. That's really a tough comparison. Not every weekend this year is going to be up when you have some strong openings like that from last year."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. "Race to Witch Mountain," \$25 million.
2. "Watchmen," \$18.1 million.
3. "The Last House on the Left," \$14.7 million.
4. "Taken," \$6.7 million.
5. "Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail," \$5.1 million.
6. "Slumdog Millionaire," \$5 million.
7. "Paul Blart: Mall Cop," \$3.1 million.
8. "He's Just Not That Into You," \$2.9 million.
9. "Coraline," \$3.3 million.
10. "Miss March," \$2.4 million.



## Visit Aruba's world famous ALOE FACTORY & MUSEUM

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This month, Aruba Aloe Balm NV introduces a special **Reduced Fee of USD \$3,-** for the Aruba Aloe Museum and Factory tour, which gives

you an inside look into the production process of the Aruba Aloe products and you will learn all about the 160-year old history of Aloe on Aruba. All visitors who pay the entrance fee, will receive a **coupon\* of USD \$3,-** which they can use towards a purchase of any of the Aruba Aloe products in the Aruba Aloe store at the factory. A good reason to visit the Aruba Aloe Museum and Factory this week and bring home one of the few products that are truly made on Aruba.

### ARUBA ALOE TOUR INFORMATION

#### Tour Hours

Monday to Friday: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Saturdays: 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon

Tours start every 20 minutes, no reservation needed

#### Location

We are located at a short drive from the Hotel area at Pitastraat 115, Hato

For more information call 588-3222

\* The coupon has no cash value and can only be used for the purchase of Aruba Aloe products on the day of the tour and only at the store located at the factory in Hato.



# BUSINESS

## Aruba TODAY



A pedestrian passes in front of the statue of a bull in the Wall Street area in New York City. A predicted slowdown in Atlantic Ocean currents will cause sea levels along the US northeast coast to rise twice as fast as the global average, exposing New York and other big cities to violent and frequent storm surges, according to a new study.

(AFP/File/Doug Kanter)

## Wall Street cautiously optimistic this week

By IEVA M. AUGSTUMS,  
AP Business Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Wall Street knows it shouldn't get ahead of itself.

So traders and investors are likely to go into the new week cautiously as they wait to see if last week's rally was a sign of a turnaround or just a blip.

The market has gotten used to false starts since stocks began their collapse last September. And as Wall Street ran up its biggest weekly gain since November, many analysts warned that this rally would soon fizzle, with stocks pulling back again rather than staging a lasting recovery. Rallies before it have evaporated — most notably the big comeback in late 2008.

Last week's surprising rally came on what looked like the start of something positive. Better-than-expected retail sales figures helped stocks, as did upbeat corporate news. First, there was word that Citigroup Inc. had operated at a profit the first two months of the year. There was also improving news from four other Dow Jones industrials: Bank of America Corp., General Electric Co., General Motors Corp. and Pfizer Inc.

"We have seen a positive change here," said Michael Sheldon, chief market strategist at RDM Financial Group, of the market's sentiment. "It seems like the mentality has changed a little bit."

The coming week has a series of economic reports that aren't expected to show significant improvement. But the market may get another lift if there are more signs that the economy is at least not getting any worse.

Perhaps the greatest possible influence this week will be the Federal Reserve's assessment of the economy that will accompany its decision on interest rates after a two-day meeting that ends Wednesday. The Fed is widely expected to hold interest rates steady. Its federal funds rate is already almost as low as it can go, set at a range of zero to 0.25 percent.

"All the Fed can do at this point is be clear about the role they are playing and say that they are going to do anything it takes to prop up this system," said Tommy Williams, president of Williams Financial Advisors in Shreveport, La. □

## Insurer AIG to make \$165 million in bonus payments

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER,  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — American International Group is giving executives in its most troubled business unit tens of millions of dollars in new bonuses even though it received a taxpayer bailout of more than \$170 billion dollars.

AIG has said it must pay out the executive bonuses to meet a contractually obligated Sunday deadline, but the troubled insurance giant has agreed to administration requests to restrain future payments.

The Treasury Department determined that the government did not have the legal authority to block the current payments by the company — which are part of a larger total payout reportedly valued at \$450 million. AIG declared earlier this month that it had suffered a loss of \$61.7 billion for the fourth quarter of last year, the largest corporate loss in history.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner has asked that the company scale back future bonus payments where legally possible, an administration official said Saturday.

This official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said that Geithner had called AIG Chairman Edward Liddy on Wednesday to demand that Liddy renegotiate AIG's current bonus structure.

Geithner termed the current bonus structure unacceptable in view of the billions of dollars of taxpayer support the company is receiving, this official said.

In a letter to Geithner dated Saturday, Liddy informed Treasury that outside lawyers had informed the company that AIG had contractual



A man stands in front of an AIG logo in Tokyo March 3, 2009. Japan's Nikkei stock average touched a four-month low on Tuesday but later pared losses to 1 percent, with banks such as Mizuho Financial Group down on fear about the U.S. financial system after AIG posted huge losses.

REUTERS/Issei Kato (JAPAN)

obligations to make the bonus payments and could face lawsuits if it did not do so.

Liddy said in his letter that "quite frankly, AIG's hands are tied" although he said that in light of the company's current situation he found it "distasteful and difficult" to recommend going forward with the payments.

Liddy said the company had entered into the bonus agreements in early 2008 before AIG got into severe financial straits and was forced to obtain a government bailout last fall.

The large bulk of the payments at issue cover AIG Financial Products, the unit of the company that sold credit default swaps, the risky contracts that caused massive losses for the insurer.

A white paper prepared by the company says that AIG is contractually obligated to pay a total of about \$165 million of previously awarded "retention pay" to employees in this unit by Sunday, March 15. The document says that another \$55 million in retention pay has already been distributed to about 400 AIG Financial Products employees.

The company says in the paper it will work to reduce the amounts paid for 2009 and believes it can trim those payments by at least 30 percent.

Bonus programs at financial companies have come under harsh scrutiny after the government began loaning them billions of dollars to keep the institutions afloat. AIG is the largest recipient of government support in the current financial crisis.

AIG also pledged to Geithner that it would also restructure \$9.6 million in bonuses scheduled to go a group that covers the top 50 executives. Liddy and six other executives have agreed to forgo bonuses. The group of top executives getting bonuses will receive half of the \$9.6 million now, with the average payment around \$112,000.

This group will get another 25 percent on July 14 and the final 25 percent on September 15. But these payments will be contingent on the AIG board determining that the company is meeting the goals the government has set for dealing with the company's financial troubles. □



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## Hip-GOP

Rev. Lennox Yearwood

Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele received considerable flack for his recent comments about giving the party of Lincoln a “hip hop makeover.”

Never mind the mental images of a gold tooth flashing John Boehner. That statement actually has merit, so to the surprise of some I’m not here to condemn the new chairman.

I’m here to thank him for saying it, and to ask him to put RNC money where his mouth is, or “bling bling” as he so eloquently put it.

In the firestorm since, the media has derided the idea, Democrats have laughed at it, and Republican politicians misunderstood it as a call to act like MC Gusto. But for now, I’m taking the man at his word.

Let me be clear though, hip hop politics already exist and aren’t shackled to either party’s platform. The party that gets our vote is the party that takes the time to listen to our concerns. And acts on them.

A melting pot of the streets, hip hop is a movement cultural in nature, artistic by choice, spiritual when it wants to be, political when it has to be, but always refined. And in our movement we walk with a swagger.

Hip hop is the firepower for the 21st century Civil Rights struggle. We are the boots on the ground, and in case you weren’t paying attention we been marching for some time now.

Marching to end the war in Iraq. Marching for climate justice and clean energy, and to end racial profiling. Marching for inner-city job creation and worker’s rights, and healthcare for all.

Addressing the needs of urbanites, minorities and young people, otherwise known as hip-hop’s constituent base, had been the life’s work of the Hip Hop Caucus since our inception in 2004.

When members of our base were dying in high numbers in unjust wars in the Middle East, we organized the “Make Hip Hop Not War” campaign.

Hip hop heads are all too aware that war is never the answer, because they’re the ones sent off to fight, not the silver-spoons from the suburbs.

In March and April of 2007 we did a sixteen-city national bus tour with hip hop artists, Iraq War Veterans, youth leaders, peace and security experts, and different Members of Congress. We held events, rallies and roundtables in each city and educated audiences on the costs of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and motivated young people to take action and have their voices heard.

Those voices promoted the closing of Guantanamo Bay and the restoration of Habeas Corpus. Those voices were heard. □



## time to prepare for climate change

By the Monitor’s Editorial Board

Elected officials must start planning for what many climate scientists say will be an altered US landscape in coming decades.

Disruptive weather and rising seas, if they happen, are events too big for governments to ignore.

Fortunately, the National Research Council, a scientific body set up to advise the US government, has taken a valuable step in that essential process. It released a report March 12 with nine recommendations on how the federal government can help local governments, businesses, and citizens begin to cope with the changes expected later in this century.

First, the report offers this warning: “As a result of human activity, the average temperature of Earth will soon leave the less-than-1 degree Celsius range that it has maintained for more than 10,000 years.” The US climate “is no longer stable, but will continue to change in new and often surprising ways,” it adds. It calls for deeper research into how specific regions will be affected and on ways to lessen or adapt to changes.

Though federal leadership will be “essential,” the report does not recommend a central agency to deal with the effort. It suggests a need to support existing governments in adapting to climate change.

Americans may already be seeing early signs of a warming climate, including a northward shift of the migration of bird species and agricultural growing seasons.

In California, more than \$100 billion worth of homes, businesses, and public facilities are at risk from extreme coastal storms if sea levels rise as anticipated.

Nearly a half-million people along its Pacific Coast could be affected, according to another

report.

A third study released this week at a scientific meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark forecasts that seas worldwide will rise beyond the seven to 23 inches estimated in 2007 by the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Now, the “best estimate” is a rise of more than three feet – and that already assumes that greenhouse-gas emissions will be significantly reduced in the future.

Local authorities have begun to act. In Las Vegas, which is likely to get hotter and drier, golf courses are tearing up much of the water-loving turf in favor of rocks, and the water department is paying customers \$1.50 per square foot to use native landscaping. Many localities are imposing lawn-watering bans or fines for water-wasters like leaky sprinklers.

Long-term planning goes far beyond these conservation efforts. It includes where to build bridges, levees, and dikes, and what kind of building to allow in coastal areas or areas prone to stronger storms.

Longer growing seasons in northern states may offer opportunities to plant new crops there. But all areas of the US are also likely to face various agriculture challenges as crop-growing regions creep northward. Developing plant varieties that can resist heat and drought may be part of the answer. The best solutions won’t necessarily be tied to the amount of money spent or large public works projects.

In low-lying Bangladesh, a poor developing nation that faces growing problems with typhoons and ocean surges, a better civil defense network cut casualties when typhoon Sidr hit in 2007.

The children being born today are counting on Americans to think long term as they confront the challenges of climate change. □



# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

# Mickelson wins CA Championship in duel with Watney

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

DORAL, Florida (AP) — No longer the best player without a World Golf Championship, Phil Mickelson won a spirited duel at Doral on Sunday to win the CA Championship and put himself in position to reach No. 1 in the world.

Mickelson, taken to a hospital on the eve of the final round with heat exhaustion and dehydration, survived seven lead changes in 11 holes against Nick Watney before hanging on with seven pars for a 3-under 69 and a one-shot victory. Mickelson won for the second time in three starts and moved to No. 2 in the world



ranking, as close to Tiger Woods as he has ever been. Depending on how Woods fares at Bay Hill, Mickelson might have a chance to go to No. 1 when he plays again. Winning this tournament was all that mattered.

Mickelson finished at 19-under 269 and earned \$1.4 million, the biggest check of his career.

Four years ago, Mickelson lost a two-shot lead against Woods in a duel that ranks among the best ever at Doral. He didn't get his revenge against the world's No. 1 player, but Watney gave him all he could handle.

*Continued on Next Page*

## Cardinals, Panthers, Heels, Huskies earn top seeds

By EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

DENVER (AP) — The Big East put up a big number Sunday: Three No. 1 seeds in the NCAA tournament.

Louisville, Pittsburgh and Connecticut helped the Big East, a group originally created for basketball only, become the first conference to put three teams on the top line. North Carolina, the regular-season Atlantic Coast conference champion, was the other top seeded team.

Louisville was the top overall seed in the tournament and will play in the Midwest. The Cardinals will open against the winner of an opening-round game Tuesday between Alabama State and Morehead State.

Pitt was tops in the East, Carolina in the South and UConn in the West.

Of the four top seeds, Rick Pitino's Cardinals were the only team to win its conference tournament.

*Continued on Page B19*

## NHL Roundup

# Avery leads Rangers over Flyers

NEW YORK (AP) — Sean Avery scored two power-play goals and drew a pair of penalties Sunday, leading the New York Rangers to a 4-1 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers.

Nik Antropov also scored a man-advantage goal for the Rangers, who matched their season high with three power-play tallies on nine chances to split the weekend series.

New York, which began the day eighth in the NHL's Eastern Conference, moved within four points of fourth-place Philadelphia. The teams have two meetings remaining.

Fredrik Sjostrom scored a wraparound goal at even strength to make it 4-1, giving the Rangers their fifth win in nine games (5-3-1) since John Tortorella replaced fired coach Tom Renney. Henrik Lundqvist made 24 saves for his 31st win, allowing only Simon Gagne's power play goal in the second. Avery staked the Rangers to a 1-0 lead in the first period, stretching his goal streak to three games, and added his second in the third period while New York enjoyed a 5-minute power play. Avery has four goals in seven games since



**New York Rangers Sean Avery (16) celebrates with his teammates after scoring a goal during the third period of the NHL hockey game against the Philadelphia Flyers, Sunday, March 15, 2009 at Madison Square Garden in New York. The Rangers defeated the Flyers 4-1.**

rejoining New York, topping the three he had in 27 games earlier this season with Dallas. At Columbus, Ohio, Chris Osgood made 23 saves for his second shutout of the season, helping Detroit become the first team in NHL history to top 100 points in nine straight seasons. Johan Franzen and Niklas Kronwall each had a goal and an assist, and Marian Hossa and Mikael Samuelsson also scored for Detroit, the NHL leader with 101 points.

The victory came eight days

after the Blue Jackets humiliated the reigning Stanley Cup champions 8-2 on their own ice, with Osgood surrendering seven goals. The Red Wings broke a tie with Montreal (1974-75 through 1981-82) for the NHL mark for consecutive 100-point seasons. At Pittsburgh, Sergei Gonchar and Chris Kunitz scored 18 seconds apart early in the third period, and Petr Sykora added the winner to help Pittsburgh move ahead of Montreal for fifth place in the Eastern Conference.

Pittsburgh overcame 3-2 and 2-1 deficits to beat conference-leading Boston for the second time in six games.

Kunitz also scored in the first period, and Bill Guerin and Jordan Staal added goals. Phil Kessel, Mark Recchi, Blake Wheeler and Michael Ryder scored for Boston. At Chicago, Peter Mannino made 40 saves in his first NHL start, and defenseman Mark Streit had two power-play goals and an assist for New York.

Richard Park and Frans Nielsen also scored for the Islanders, 6-2-1 in their last nine games. New York was 3-for-7 on the power play.

Patrick Kane and Kris Versteeg scored for Chicago, and Nikolai Khabibulin made 15 saves in his first game since aggravating a groin injury in Atlanta on Feb. 11.

At St. Louis, Keith Tkachuk and David Perron scored on a two-man advantage in the second period, and David Backes also had a power-play goal for the hosts.

**In other NHL games St. Louis 5, Minnesota 3; New York Islanders 4, Chicago 2; Pittsburgh 6, Boston 4; and Detroit 4, Columbus 0.**

*Associated Press*





Nick Watney holds his hat over his face as he reacts after missing a putt on the 18th hole to finish second behind Phil Mickelson during the final round at the CA Championship golf tournament Sunday, March 15, 2009, in Doral, Fla.

Associated Press

#### CA CHAMPIONSHIP

Continued from Page B17

"It took a lot out of me," said Mickelson, who sipped on energy drinks throughout the round. "I haven't eaten much in three days. I fought hard. I've been playing some of my best golf, and I'm very excited to have finished it off."

Watney closed with a 2-under 70, holing an unlikely chip for birdie from behind the ninth green, then making an eagle on the 10th to pull into a tie for the lead. Needing a birdie on the 18th hole, which yielded only three in the final round, Watney thought his 30-footer was good until it stopped one turn away.

He pulled his cap over his face, and could only watch as Mickelson took two putts

from 25 feet away for par and the victory.

"I'll get over this," Watney said. "It's a positive week. I played really well. Beat 78 of the best players in the world. Beat Tiger, which is always good. I'm very pleased with the way I'm playing."

Woods, in his first stroke-play event since winning the U.S. Open, closed with another 68 to finish eight shots behind in a tie for ninth, but at least kept one streak alive. He has never finished out of the top 10 on the Blue Monster.

"I didn't get anything out of my rounds," Woods said. "I hit the ball a lot better than my scoring indicates."

Jim Furyk shot 31 on the back nine for a 67 to finish alone in third. Jeev Milkha Singh had a 70 and was alone in fourth, his best result in a PGA Tour event. But the show throughout a steamy afternoon on the Blue Monster belonged to Mickelson and Watney, who went into the final round tied for the lead, both pupils of swing coach Butch Harmon, both having won over the last few months.

They said this wouldn't be match play, but it sure looked like it.

Including ties, the lead changed seven times over the first 11 holes, with momentum swinging in both directions.

No one made a serious run at the leaders until Furyk's late charge, but there was plenty of action in the final group. What set the stage for the back-nine duel was a stunning turnaround at the par-3 ninth.

Mickelson, who fell behind for only one hole with a bogey at No. 4, built a two-shot lead when Watney made bogey from the bunker on No. 7 and Mickelson ripped a 3-wood from 256 yards over the water just over the par-5 eighth green for a birdie.

Mickelson was safely on the green at No. 9 when Watney

pulled his tee shot over the green and down a ramp between the television toward and the grandstand. With nearly a dozen practice swings for a delicate shot, he flopped it up the slope, onto the green and charged up the hill when it dropped for birdie.

Just like that, he was only one shot behind. And with two beautiful swings on the par-5 10th, he had an 8-foot eagle putt. Walking toward the green, Watney rolled his shoulders and pushed his palms toward the ground, reminded himself to stay calm.

He holed the eagle putt and was tied for the lead, but that was as sharp as he got.

Making a bogey from the bunker on the 11th was one thing, but he let Mickelson off the hook on the par-5 12th.


Lefty went well to the right and into the bushes, although he could see enough of the ball to consider swinging from the other side. He inverted a wedge for his right-handed shot, but it struck a tree and stayed in the rough. Mickelson took four shots to reach the green and made bogey.


Watney only had a 4-iron to the green and made bogey. He caught another nasty lie in the bunker, and this time caught it fat and left it in the bunker, eventually missing a 6-footer for par. "I feel like I gave away two shots there," Watney said. "Having 4-iron to the green and making 6 there was pretty disappointing. I guess that's going to happen over 72 holes. Just try to work hard and come back better next time."

Mickelson is looking better than ever.

He won at Riviera three week ago, and his victory at Doral made it six straight seasons of winning multiple times, the longest active streak on the PGA Tour. He now has 36 victories to tie for 12th with Lloyd Mangrum on the career list. □

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NBA Roundup.

# Ariza leads L.A. over Mavericks

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kobe Bryant scored 28 points as the Los Angeles Lakers squandered a big lead before taking control late in a 107-100 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Sunday.

Trevor Ariza had a career-high 26 and Pau Gasol added 25 for the Lakers, who are vying with Cleveland for the NBA's best record and are already the Pacific Division champs. They could meet the Mavericks in the first round of the playoffs. Reserve Jason Terry led Dallas with 29 points and Dirk Nowitzki added 20 on 6-of-20 shooting.

Gasol finished 12-of-13 from the floor, making all 10 of his shots in the first half. Bryant was 11-of-20 for the game.

**Bucks 86, Celtics 77**

At Milwaukee, Charlie Villanueva scored 11 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter to help the Bucks hold off Boston.

Kendrick Perkins scored a career-high 26 points with 12 rebounds, but had little help from anybody else as Milwaukee denied the defending champions a chance to clinch their second straight Atlantic Division crown. Paul Pierce had 15 points.

**Cavaliers 98, Knicks 93**

At Cleveland, Mo Williams scored 23 points and LeBron James added 19 as Cleveland opened a crucial stretch of home games by beating New York.

The Cavaliers didn't put the Knicks away until the final minutes and improved the NBA's best home record to 29-1. Cleveland is competing with Boston for the best mark in the Eastern Conference and home-court advantage in the postseason.

Al Harrington made five 3-pointers and scored 26 points for New York, which had its three-game winning streak stopped.

**Magic 105, Jazz 87**

At Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard had 28 points and 20 rebounds, leading Orlando over weary Utah for its third straight victory.

The Magic (49-17) closed within a half-game of the Boston Celtics (50-17), who lost earlier in the day, for the No. 2 seed in the upcoming playoffs.

Carlos Boozer had 23 points and 13 rebounds for the Jazz, coming off a triple-overtime loss in Miami a day earlier. The Magic got 16 points from point guard Rafer Alston and

14 from backup point guard Anthony Johnson.

**76ers 85, Heat 77**

At Philadelphia, Andre Iguodala scored 21 points in the 76ers win over Miami.

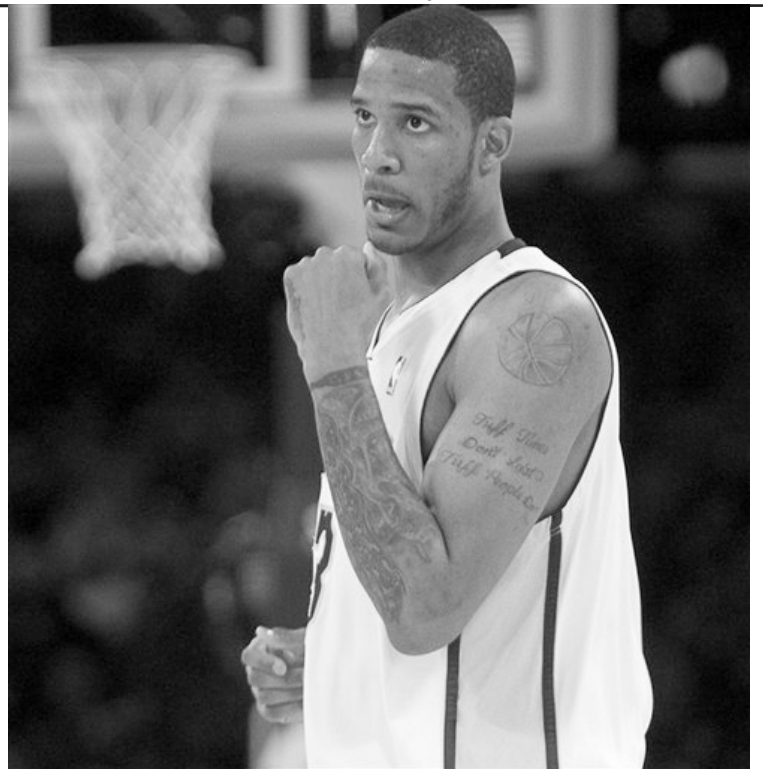
Dwyane Wade, coming off a 50-point performance in a triple-overtime victory over Utah on Saturday, was held to 18. The NBA's leading scorer looked tired after playing a career-high 52½ minutes against the Jazz. He shot 8-for-21 in 34½ minutes.

Thaddeus Young scored 17 points and Samuel Dalembert had eight points and 12 rebounds for Philadelphia, which won its third straight and moved within two games of Miami for fifth place in the Eastern Conference.

**Hawks 98, Trail Blazers 80**

At Atlanta, Joe Johnson scored 35 points and Josh Smith had 19 points and eight rebounds as Atlanta beat Portland for its fifth consecutive victory.

Brandon Roy finished with 29 points for the Blazers, who have lost two of three. Portland dropped a half-game behind Denver for the Northwest Division lead and fell out of a three-way tie with the Nuggets and New Orleans Hornets for fourth place in the Western Conference.



Los Angeles Lakers Trevor Ariza reacts after scoring against the Dallas Mavericks during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles on Sunday, March 15, 2009. The Lakers won 107-100.

Associated Press

Johnson, who scored 15 points in the third quarter, shot 15-for-27 from the field in his fourth straight 30-point game. He handed out six assists, but missed all four of his 3-point attempts. At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Mike Conley scored 20 points and Darko Milicic added a double-double against his former team as Memphis ended a seven-game losing

streak to Detroit.

In other games it was, Washington 106, Sacramento 104; Toronto 110, Indiana 87; Memphis 89, Detroit 84; Atlanta 98, Portland 80; Philadelphia 85, Miami 77; Orlando 105, Utah 87; Cleveland 98, New York 93; and Milwaukee 86, Boston 77. □

## TOP SEEDS

Continued from Page B17

Louisville entered the Big East conference tournament as the top seed, though Pitt and UConn were more highly regarded throughout the regular season, each spending time at No. 1 in The Associated Press poll. Memphis (31-3) got snubbed, taking the second seed in the West despite a 25-game winning streak. The Tigers are often downgraded for playing in the less-than-stellar Conference USA, but John Calipari's team proved people wrong last year, making it to the national title game.

In the West, it's No. 2 seed Memphis vs. Cal State-Northridge; Missouri vs. Cornell; Washington vs. Mississippi State; Purdue vs. Northern Iowa; Marquette vs. Utah State; California vs. Maryland; and BYU vs. Texas

A&M.

Last year's national champion, Kansas, is almost completely revamped this year and was seeded third in the Midwest with an opening game against North Dakota State. Arizona extended its string of tournament appearances to a quarter century, and the 25th bid will be among the most debated. The Wildcats were thought by many to be off the bubble after an early loss to Arizona State in the Pac-10 tournament, but made it as 12th seed in the Midwest.

In the Midwest, No. 2 seed Michigan State will face No. 15 seed Robert Morris. In other games: Kansas vs. N. Dakota State; Wake Forest vs. Cleveland State; Utah vs. Arizona; West Virginia vs. Dayton; Boston College vs. Southern California; and Ohio State vs. Siena. □



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Japan starter Daisuke Matsuzaka pitches in the first inning of his start against Cuba during their World Baseball Classic game at PETCO Park, Sunday, March 15, 2009, in San Diego.

Associated Press

## Dice-K cools off Cuba to remain perfect in WBC

By BERNIE WILSON

AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Pitching in the same ballpark where he led Japan to the inaugural WBC title three years ago, Boston Red Sox ace Daisuke Matsuzaka was brilliant in leading Japan to a 6-0 win over Cuba in the second round of the World Baseball Classic on Sunday.

Matsuzaka improved to 5-0 in five WBC starts by holding Cuba to five singles in six innings while striking out eight and walking none. The right-hander with the slow-motion windup has two wins in this edition of the WBC and was the MVP in 2006, when he went 3-0.

"I knew Cuba was a good team, but particularly there was nothing I was too worried about," Matsuzaka said through a translator. "While I was doing the warming up, did I look so fierce? I thought I had a smile on my face, did I not?"

He should have.

Matsuzaka beat Cuba 10-6 at spacious Petco Park in the championship game three years ago, triggering a celebration that was worthy of a World Series victory.

On Sunday, he held Cuba to five singles in six innings while striking out eight and walking none.

His first five strikeout victims all went down looking.

"It is not very often that this happens to us, but sometimes it does happen," Cuban manager Higinio Velez said. "The guys know that this could happen, and they do prepare for this. There are great pitchers that can do this.

"We faced a wonderful pitcher today, and he did not face an unknown at all. It's a pitcher that we respect quite a bit."

Cuba came in with 11 home runs, all hit at high altitude in Mexico City in the first round, when it went 3-0 to win Pool B. Seven of Cuba's eight hits Sunday were singles. Frederick Cepeda had three hits, including a double.

Matsuzaka got a nice ovation from Japanese fans and handshakes from teammates as he approached the dugout after striking out Yosvani Peraza to end the sixth. He threw 86 pitches. There's an 85-pitch limit in the second round, unless a pitcher needs more to complete a batter's plate appearance.

It was Japan's second shutout in this WBC. It beat China 4-0 in the first-round opener, with Yu Darvish getting the win.

Matsuzaka also won at Petco Park with the Red Sox in 2007, beating Greg Maddux and the San Diego Padres 2-1.

Cuba will play an elimination game Monday night against the loser of Sunday night's matchup between Mexico and South Korea. Japan will play Tuesday night against the Mexico-South Korea winner for a spot in the WBC semifinals next weekend in Los Angeles.

"I think that this is a game that was not good enough for the wonderful rivals that faced each other," Velez said. □

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# Tensa elección presidencial en El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR (Reuters) - Los salvadoreños comenzaron el domingo a votar en una de las elecciones presidenciales más reñidas en la historia del país y donde la ex guerrilla izquierdista FMLN podría acceder por primera vez al poder y terminar con 20 años de gobiernos de derecha.

Los dos principales candidatos llegan casi empatados en las encuestas, por lo que un resultado muy cerrado podría desatar protestas teniendo en cuenta que el candidato del ex rebelde Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN), Mauricio Funes, denunció irregularidades en el proceso.

La gobernante Alianza Republicana Nacionalista (Arena), de las derechas más radicales de América Latina, postula como candidato al ex jefe de policía Rodrigo Avila, quien reconoció haber disparado contra guerrilleros durante la sangrienta guerra civil que vivió el país entre 1980 y 1992.

Los centros de votación abrieron a las 7 hora local (1300 GMT) para recibir a los cerca de 4,2 millones de electores habilitados y cerrarán a las 17 horas.

Se instalaron 460 centros de votación con 9.453 juntas receptoras en todo el país.

Funes, un reconocido periodista sin vínculos en el pasado con el FMLN, dijo el sábado que hay personas de otros países de Centroamérica, como Nicaragua y Honduras, a quienes se les ha dado un documento de identidad salvadoreño para que voten ilegalmente en estas elecciones.

“No he dicho a las misiones de observadores que va haber fraude, pero sí les he expresado mi preocupación por una serie de anomalías (...) que, de no corregirse o evitarse, podrían materializarse en fraude”, dijo

Funes a periodistas tras reunirse con observadores de la Unión Europea y de la OEA.

Una autoridad local del FMLN, que habló bajo condición de anonimato, advirtió que, si el resultado es muy cerrado y se cometen irregularidades, probablemente los miembros del partido saldrán a las calles a protestar.

El sábado por la noche, el presidente Elías Antonio Saca emitió un mensaje por radio y televisión llamando a dirigentes y activistas a aceptar los resultados y confiar en el Tribunal Supremo Electoral.

“El respeto a los resultados debe predominar este domingo”, dijo Saca, quien traspasará la presidencia en junio al ganador

de los comicios que gobernará por cinco años.

Estas son las cuartas elecciones en El Salvador, el país más pequeño de Centroamérica, de 5,7 millones de habitantes, después de la guerra civil que enfrentó al FMLN con el Ejército y grupos paramilitares respaldados por Estados Unidos.

El próximo presidente deberá lidiar con el impacto de la crisis económica en El Salvador, que depende de las millonarias remesas que envían a sus familiares los 2,3 millones de inmigrantes en Estados Unidos y que han comenzado a mermar por la crisis económica en la primera economía mundial. □



Un policía salvadoreño vigila una estación de votación en El Salvador, mar 14, 2009. Los salvadoreños elegirán el domingo a su cuarto presidente luego de la guerra civil en momentos en que millones ven con angustia cómo caen las vitales remesas que les envían sus familiares emigrados a Estados Unidos, debido a la crisis económica. REUTERS/Edgard Garrido (EL SALVADOR)



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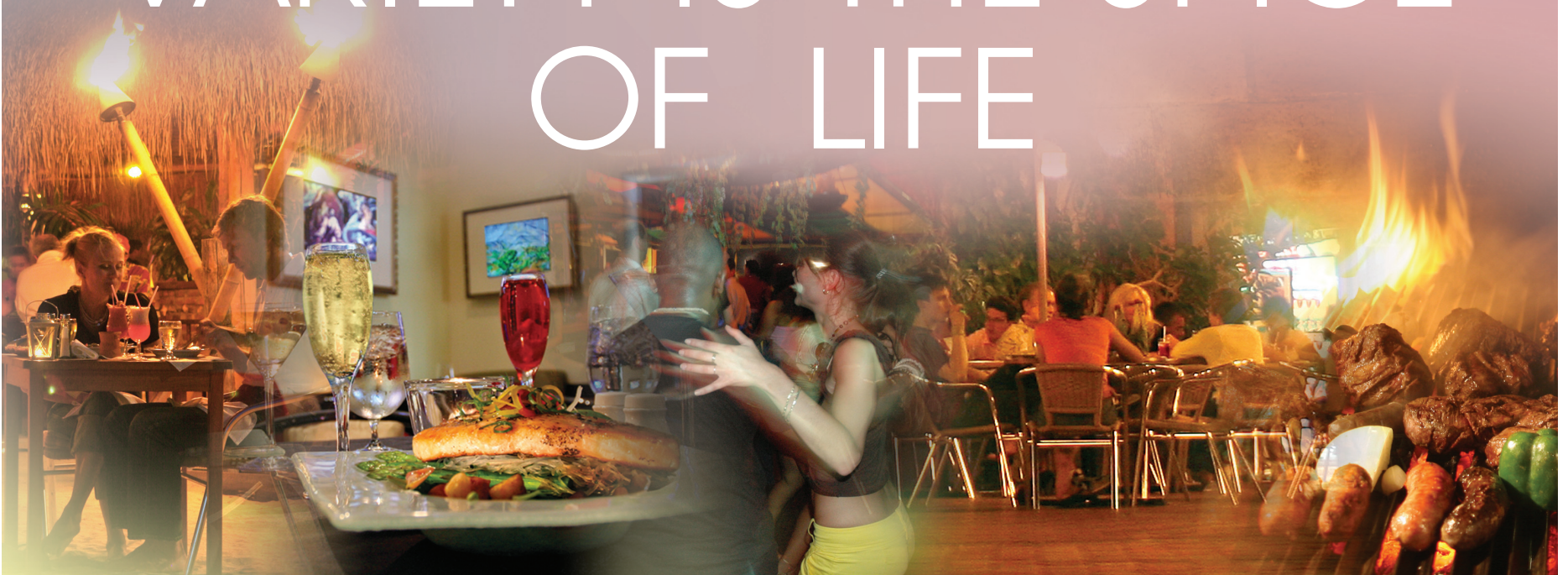
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Choose from eight participating establishments offering something for everyone. From fine-dining excellence at Matilde to family-fun and Tapas at Salt & Pepper. Or enjoy a charcoal grilled dinner at Tango Argentine Grill, or experience the fresh Catch of the day, brought in by the local fisherman's at Hadicurari Restaurant. Relax on the beach at MooMba Beach, or go all out starting your evening at Café The Plaza, stroll over to Mambo Jambo for downtown nightlife and salsa dancing and finish your evening at Sopranos live Piano Bar.

Check out the ARUBA WINE AND DINE Associates at [www.arubawineanddine.com](http://www.arubawineanddine.com)



*Café the Plaza*

**Café the Plaza (at Renaissance Marketplace, Downtown)**  
International Cuisine  
Phone: 583-8826  
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and Daily Live music.  
A Dutch style restaurant with moderate prices  
Open from 10.00 am - 01.00 am  
7 days a week  
[www.cafetheplaza.com](http://www.cafetheplaza.com)



*Tango Argentine Grill*

**Tango Argentine Grill (at Arawak Garden, High Rise Hotels)**  
International Cuisine and Charcoal Grill  
Phone: 586-8600  
Dinner and Daily Live Music.  
World famous Argentine beef prepared on open charcoal grill.  
Open from 5.00 pm - 11.00 pm  
7 days a week  
[www.tangoaruba.com](http://www.tangoaruba.com)



*Salt & Pepper*

**Salt & Pepper (at Arawak Garden, High Rise Hotels)**  
International Cuisine and Tapas  
Phone: 586-3280  
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.  
Daily Live music by local artists and bands on our large terrace.  
Open from 8.00 am - 01.00 am  
7 days a week  
[www.saltandpepperaruba.com](http://www.saltandpepperaruba.com)



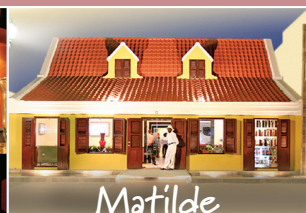
*MooMba Beach*

**MooMba Beach (between Holiday Inn & Marriott Surf Club)**  
International Cuisine  
Phone: 586-5365  
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and Daily Live Music.  
Enjoy dinner by torch light... barefoot on the beach.  
Open from 7.00 am - 11.00 pm  
Bar open from 10.00 am - 01.00 am  
[www.moombabeach.com](http://www.moombabeach.com)



*Sopranos Piano Bar*

**Sopranos Piano Bar (at Arawak Garden, High Rise Hotels)**  
Bar with Live Entertainment  
Phone: 586-8622  
Extensive Cocktail menu.  
Daily live music, request your favorite songs and sing along!  
Open from 5.00 pm - 01.00 am  
7 days a week  
[www.sopranospianobar.com](http://www.sopranospianobar.com)



*Matilde*

**Matilde Restaurant (Downtown)**  
International Cuisine  
AAA/4 Diamond Award  
Phone: 583-9200  
Lunch and Dinner  
A refined dining experience.  
Restaurant open from 11.30 am - 11.00 pm  
7 days a week  
[www.matildearuba.com](http://www.matildearuba.com)



*Mambo Jambo*

**Mambo Jambo Latin Bar & Grill (Royal Plaza Downtown)**  
International & Latin Cuisine  
Phone: 583-3632  
Lunch, Dinner, Live Bands, Salsa Dancing, Great food and good music 7 days a week.  
Restaurant open from 11.00 am - 09.00 pm, Bar open from 11.00 am - 04.00 am  
[www.mambojamboaruba.com](http://www.mambojamboaruba.com)



*Hadicurari*

**Hadicurari Restaurant (between MooMba Beach and Marriott Surf Club)**  
International and Seafood Cuisine  
Phone: 586-2288  
Lunch and Dinner  
'Seafood with a view'  
Restaurant open from 8.00 am - 11.00 pm  
7 days a week  
[www.hadicurari.com](http://www.hadicurari.com)



[WWW.ARUBAWINEANDDINE.COM](http://WWW.ARUBAWINEANDDINE.COM)

